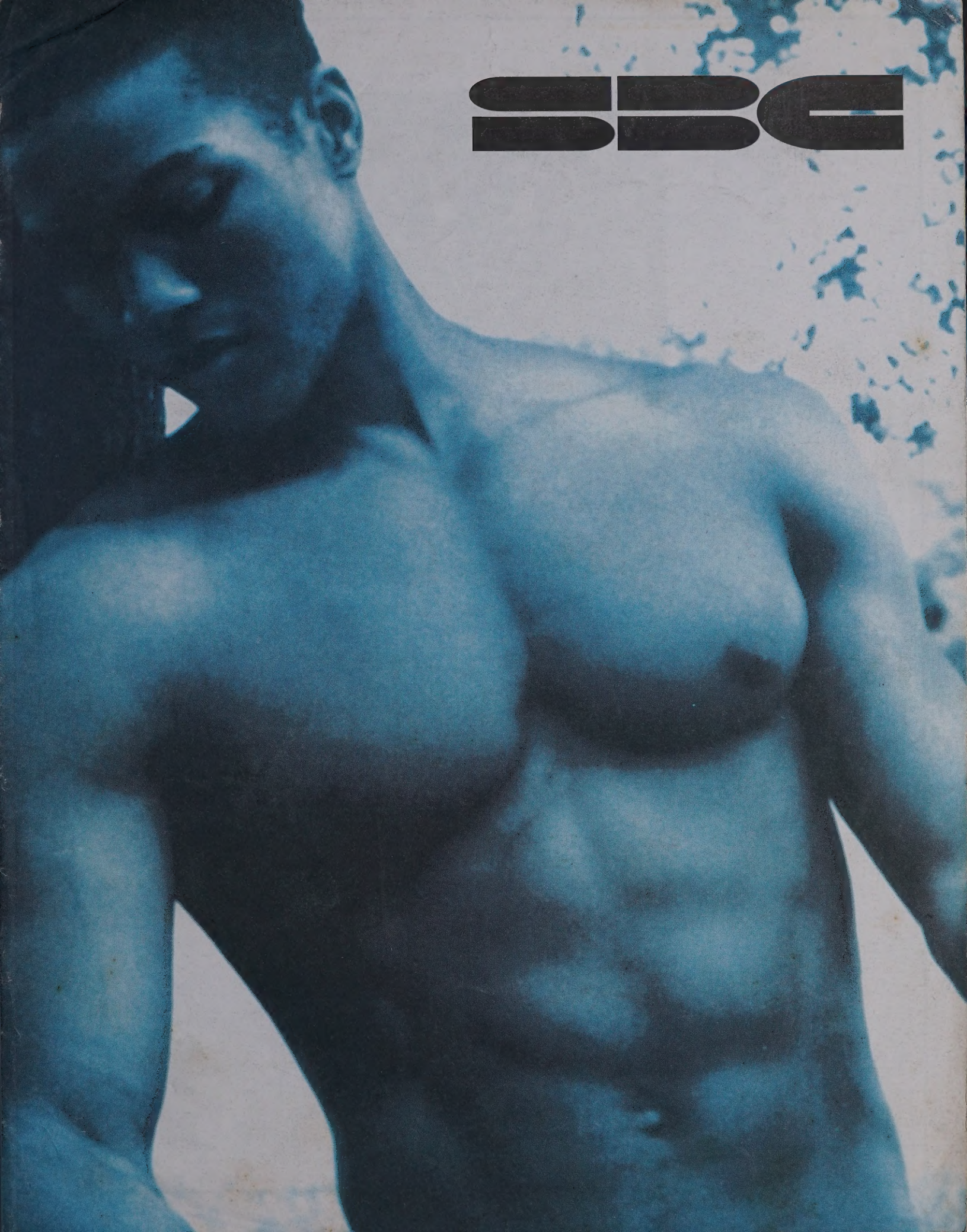
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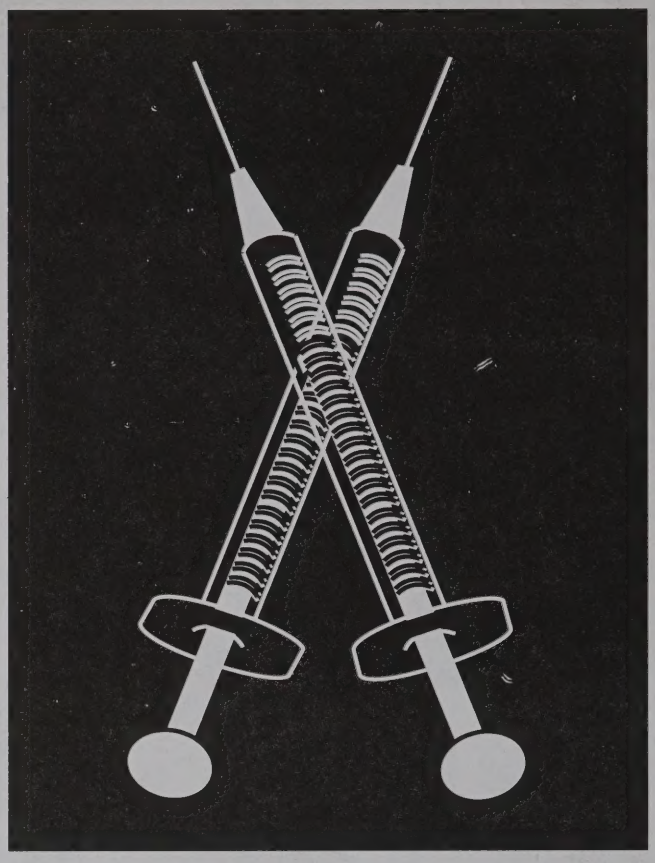

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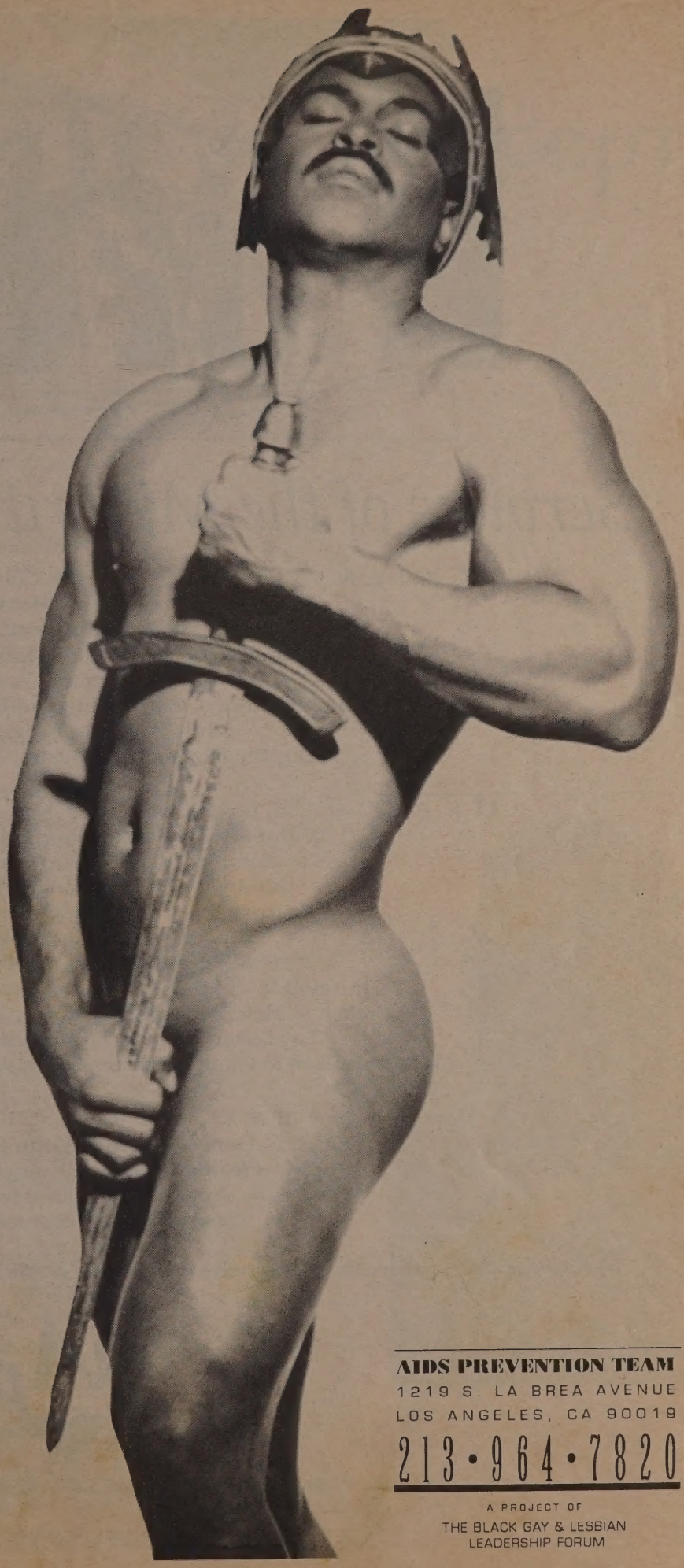

AIDS PREVENTION TEAM
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in concept

There is indeed strength in numbers, and the burgeoning strength of the Afrocentric homosexual movement has been manifesting itself in a number of ways, but none quite so evident as the many annual celebrations, festivals, gatherings, conventions, retreats and conferences held across the nation. The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, convened this past February in Secaucus, New Jersey, and drawing over a thousand Black homosexual brothers and sisters, was just the beginning.

BMX (Black Men's Xchange) held it's empowering retreat the following weekend in Oakland, California while still inspiring, empowering and encouraging Black men who love men to love themselves every week in a half-dozen city chapters throughout the nation.

D.C. Pride Weekend, being held in the nation's capitol May 26-30, promises to outdo last year's attendance of 4,000.

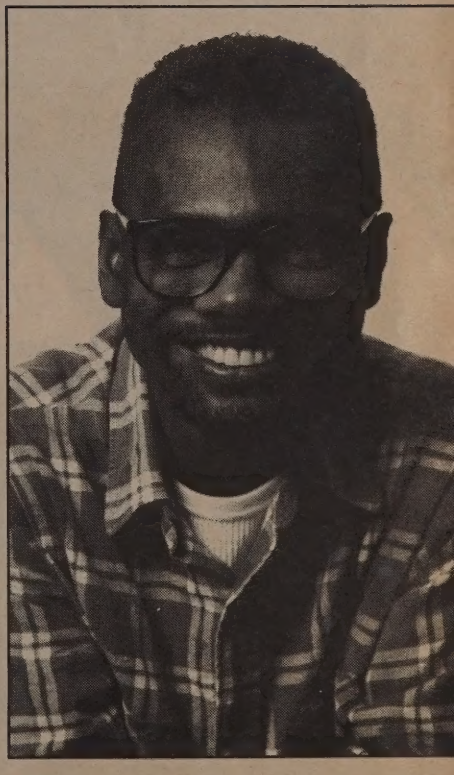
And L.A.'s "At The Beach" Malibu party not only looks to hit a record attendance of 7,500, but also looks to be the beginning of an ongoing Black Gay L.A. Festival with such organizations as BLK magazine, BMX, BGLLF, ULOAA, GENTLEMEN CONCERNED and SBC, just to name a few, planning social/political activities and cultural events in conjunction with ATB for the pleasure and the power of our visiting family members.

And of course there's the gathering in Atlanta this Labor Day Weekend which, year after year, continues to solidify Atlanta as the Afrocentric homosexual capitol of the South.

We are a mighty mighty nation and a mighty mighty family, truly strengthened by numbers and unity and commitment to each other.

Let us continue to stand up strong and be counted proudly--arm in arm--by networking our Black-on-Black love into the powerbase that justifiably strikes the fear of God into those witnessing this not-so-phenomenon phenomenon from the outside.

See you at the next summit.



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STANLEY BENNETT CLAY

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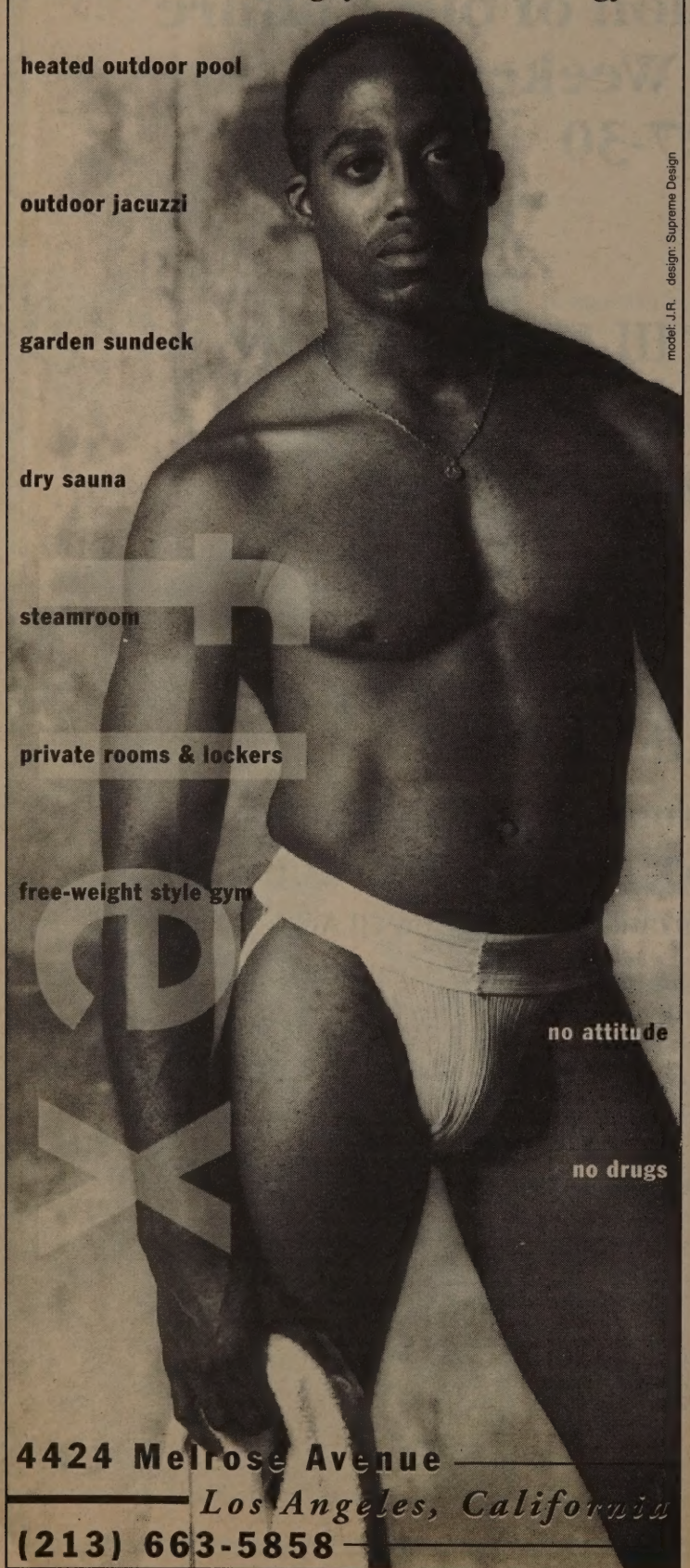

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BLACK GAY STAGE DRAMA PREMIERS MAY 27TH IN D.C.

Washington D.C.—When a trusted therapist cannot attend a pre-scheduled retreat for his African-American gay male patients, the men embark on an odyssey of self-examination and growth, wrestling with the complexities of manhood, self-esteem and AIDS. They are aided, somewhat reluctantly, by a substitute counselor and caretaker of the mountain resort.

Such is the premise of "The Group", an original play written by Terry Sidney premiering Friday, May 27, 1994 during D.C. Pride Day Weekend at the Landsburg Theater, 450 7th St., N.W.

"The Group" is the initial offering from Emerald City Productions, a presenting collaborative of Washington D.C. arts professionals.

for further information call 202.269.1114

MARLON RIGGS, AWARD-WINNING FILM-MAKER OF "TONGUES UNTIED", PASSES

Oakland—Professor and filmmaker, Marlon Riggs, who won Emmy and Peabody awards for his documentaries on Blacks and gays, died of AIDS complications at his home Tuesday, April 5th. He was 37.

Riggs was one of the youngest people ever tenured at UC Berkeley in arts and humanities, said Tom Leonard, acting dean of the Graduate School of Journalism.

He began making documentaries in 1982 after receiving his master's degree from Harvard University and quickly gained national recognition, with several films aired by the Public Broadcasting System. Riggs won nationwide notoriety with his 1991 film "Tongues Untied," which aired on PBS. The hour long film about Black gay men was criticized for its graphic content, and because it was made with a $5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, stirred controversy over arts funding in Washington.

His Emmy-winning "Ethnic Notions" and Peabody-winning "Color Adjustment" traced the media portrayal of African Americans through U.S. history.

"He was a major figure in forcing Americans of all races and genders to confront their underlying attitudes toward stigmatized groups, especially Blacks and gays," stated Larry Daressa, co-director of California newsreel, which distributes the films. "He really helped forge the analysis we use in the 90's, and he made it popularly available."

His mother, Jean Riggs, and his companion, Jack Vincent, were with him when he died at his home in Oakland.

The UC Berkeley School of Journalism will be setting up a fund for documentary students in his honor.

BMX/LA TO HOLD SINGLE BLACK MEN'S EVENT MAY 28TH

Los Angeles—On May 28, 1994 the Los Angeles Chapter of Black Men's Exchange is sponsoring a special event for single Black men. This event will combine entertainment, quality time and a few surprises to facilitates Black male to male relationships.

Black Men's Exchange, a national organization with branches in Oakland/San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento, Atlanta, Detroit, Philadelphia as well as Los Angeles, is a support organization for Black men who love men.

For further information regarding the special L.A. single men's event, call 310.281.7742

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER WANTS DIANA ROSS FOR SUNSET BOULEVARD

Hollywood—If International stage composer and impresario Andrew Lloyd Webber, has his way, Diana Ross will step into the role of Norma Desmond in the critically acclaimed and commercially successful stage rendition of the classic film **Sunset Boulevard.**

In a series of twists that are as melodramatically intriguing and entertaining as the 1950s' Hollywood film noire upon which it's based, the upcoming Broadway production of **Sunset Boulevard** was originally supposed to star it's London headliner, Patti LuPone, who a few years earlier won a Broadway Tony award for her title performance as Webber's **Evita**, until Oscar nominated tinseltown diva Glenn Close blew the normally blase' L.A. audience away with a performance many are calling insurmountable.

As a result, Ms. LuPone was 'invited' by the producers not to worry about Broadway, which she ultimately decided to do, especially after having her contract bought out to the tune of $1 million a year for every year the show runs on Broadway without her in it, leaving room for Glenn to storm Broadway with the same lightening she struck in the $12 million L.A. production.

Now when Oscar-winner Faye Dunaway tried out to replace Close in L.A. in the role of the demented Desmond diva, it seems everything was mad fab but the chops. Dunaway can act but she can't sing. And according to syndicated columnist, Liz Smith, Webber has been pursuing Diana Ross with a vengeance and a truck load of money. As of this writing, it is not on Ross's immediate schedule, but if the money's right, she could be on stage at L.A.'s Schubert Theater telling Mr. De Mille that she's ready for her close-up as soon as September.

VEGA PRESS CALLS FOR BLACK MALE PHOTOGRAPHY SUBMISSIONS

New Jersey—Vega Press, dedicated to the publication and promotion of African-American artists, announces the publication of an anthology of African-America male images titled "In Our Own Image II: Legacy".

In 1993 Vega Press published "In Our Own Image: The Art of Black Male Photography". It was the first photographic journal of it's kind to introduce a variety of positive Black male images by 7 Black male photographers from across the country, including London. Since then Vega Press has introduced a number of product which explores the visual personification of the Black male image in photography, including 2 calendars and a line of B & W greeting cards.

"In Our Own Image II: Legacy" will include the work of at least 10 Black photographers who have an established body of work about the Black male image. Black photographers are encouraged to submit 3-4 photographs as samples of their work no later than June 15, 1994 to Vega Press/ P.O. Box 784/ Sicklerville, New Jersey 08081. Please make sure you include your name, address and telephone number at the top of each submission along with a SASE.

GLAAD/LA ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR COMMITTEE

Los Angeles—On March 15, 1994,the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Los Angeles (GLAAD/LA) announced the formation of a People of Color Committee designed to address lesbian and gay People of Color issues and concerns.

GLAAD/LA Executive Director, Lee Werbel stated, "The need of the committee is critical to the success of our efforts in confronting homophobia. The goal of the committee is to welcome, encourage and increase participation of lesbian and gay People of Color in GLAAD/LA."

11th International AIDS Candlelight and Memorial Mobilization

March and Rally: A Call for Action

cure AIDS now!

Sunday, May 22, 1994

7:00 p.m. Gather at
Hollywood United Methodist Church
6817 Franklin Ave.
Hollywood

7:30 p.m. March through Hollywood

8:00 p.m. Rally at L.A. Gay and Lesbian
Community Services Center
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Hollywood
(3 blocks east of Highland,
between Sunset & Hollywood)

For more information, please contact Chris at (213) 993-7415

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Jewish AIDS Service
LA Free Clinic (Hollywood Site)
LA Shanti
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center
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Nuestro Recuerdos
Prototypes WARN
Stonewall Democratic Club

continued...

Co-founded by GLAAD/LA Office Manager Nancy Perez and long-time GLAAD/LA Monitor and Response Committee member, Shawn Griffin, the People of Color Committee was formed with the support from other GLAAD members.

According to Perez, "The committee was developed to combat homophobia, racism and sexism by bringing together a group of activists separated by culture, geography and media invisibility. Recognizing that GLAAD/LA is one of the most influential groups in the country, it is crucial that it reflect all of America."

Griffin stated, "The formation of this committee is a step forward in the continued expansion and growth of GLAAD/LA and it also provides an incredible resource for the organization."

The committee's first meeting was held Thursday, April 7, 1994 at 7 PM at the GLAAD office, 8455 Beverly Boulevard, suite 305, Los Angeles, California. Subsequent meetings will be held regularly on the second Wednesday of each month beginning in May at 7 PM.

GLAAD is a diverse group dedicated to confronting written, oral and visual defamation of lesbian, gay men and bisexuals and working as a resource for media professionals and others seeking to use accurate and inclusive images of lesbians and gay men.

BMX ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/SBC CHICAGO COORDINATOR RECEIVES THREATS

Chicago—-Paul Shields, Local Chicago Chairman and Administrative Secretary to the National Headquarters of Black Men's Xchange and Chicago Coordinator for **SBC**, has reportedly received life threatening phone calls over the last two months, resulting in the cancellation of several local BMX meetings.

Other African American homosexual/bisexual men were threatened on their way to a BMX meeting. According to one source,"They were threatened by four white gay men in a blue minivan (and were) also told if they go inside the building, they would get beaten with baseball bats and chains."

The situation is currently under investigation.

CARL BEAN AIDS CARE CENTER TO BE HONORED BY L.A. CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

Los Angeles— The City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission will honor AIDS Healthcare Foundation and its Carl Bean AIDS Care Center for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Wells-Halliday Mansion in which the AIDS Care Center is housed.

The recognition is one of several acknowledgments the AIDS Care Center has received since it opened in October 1992. Last year, the Los Angeles Conservancy identified it as an outstanding example of preservation, along with the downtown Bradbury Building, the Castle Green in Pasadena and the Natural History Museum. The Los Angeles Times featured the facility in its design and architectural pages.

"The [Carl Bean AIDS Care] Center is an overwhelming success," said Leslie Burke, Director of the facility. "The aesthetics of the site—-the blend of old and new—-make such an impression on people. We try to make the same impression in the care we provide, the warmth and homelike feeling. We are very proud that we can provide care in such a setting.

The Carl Bean AIDS Care Center is a 25-bed, state-of-the-art residential hospice facility for people with AIDS who have diagnosis of less than six months to live.

A project developed in conjunction with Minority AIDS Project and the Black Los Angeles AIDS Commission, the AIDS Care Center is named in honor of Bishop Carl Bean, founder of Unity Fellowship Church and The Minority AIDS Project.

The mansion was completely restored and the new interior furnishings were coordinated by a committee of designers who donated their time and services. It houses the dining room and administrative offices, which are connected to the state-of-the-art residential hospice facility situated behind it. The residential wing is three levels, with the first floor serving as the parking facility. The middle level consists of a central 40-foot high skylit atrium sur-

rounded by bedrooms. The third floor encircles the atrium with more bedrooms. Architects for the project were Franklin Po and Rod Butler.

A reception honoring AIDS Healthcare Foundation and the Carl Bean AIDS Care Center will be held Thursday, May 26 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, Room 350.

RADICAL RIGHT GOES TO NEW EXTREMES TO ATTACK FAMILIES OF LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS

Washington D.C.—On Monday, January 10th, two anti-gay initiatives were filed with the Washington secretary of state, setting off petition drives to get the measures on the November 1994 ballot. One of these two measures, filed by the Citizens Alliance of Washington, targets lesbian and gay parents and their families with unprecedented vigor—prohibiting gays and lesbians from becoming foster parents, adopting children or gaining child custody in a divorce. This measure also bars "minority status based on homosexuality," prohibits schools from presenting homosexuality as positive behavior and bans same-gender marriage.

The Citizens Alliance of Washington is forcing parents and children apart, and going to new extremes in pursuit of its anti-gay political agenda, say gay and lesbian parents.

"The Radical Right has tried before to deny lesbians and gays from becoming foster parents and adopting children who need good homes," says Tim Fisher, Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. "But this is their first attempt to enact legislation which prohibits lesbians and gays from retaining custody of their own children in a divorce.

"They would deny us the right to raise our own children. How is that a 'Special Right'?" continues Fisher, referring to the Right's claim that gays want "special rights."

"The best interest of children" are clearly irrelevant in the Religious Right's anti-gay crusade. Buried in the fine print, **where it has been missed by most news stories**, the initiative states that upon dissolution of a marriage where one of the parents is gay or lesbian, the other parent will receive custody. Where both parents are gay, custody will be awarded to the nearest non-gay relative. If no such person exists, children will be taken from their parents and put in foster care or put up for adoption.

Children of lesbian and gay parents around the country are reacting to the news from Washington state with disbelief.

"They say they're 'pro-family' then they force families apart," comments Stefan Lynch of COLAGE, Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere—the only national organization run by and for the daughters and sons of lesbians and gay men. "When my parents split up," continues Lynch, a college All-American, "they both came out as gay and stayed friends and great parents. And I know a lot of kids in the same situation. If it were up to those people in Washington state, I would have been taken from my home and family and placed with strangers.

"If I was ever taken away from my dad," says Kate Ranson-Walsh, a 13 year old whose parents split up five years ago, "I don't know what I would do. It's not fair. He didn't do anything to me or anyone else. And he's the best dad in the world."

If this initiative passes, thousands of families in Washington state would be placed in jeopardy.

"Parents here are scared," says Gloria Stancich of the South Puget Sound Lesbian and Gay Parents Support Group in Tacoma, Washington, "particularly those dealing with custody issues. Washington state is a state that's been very fair to its gay and lesbian citizens, but we cannot afford to be complacent."

"Listening to the news on the radio, I was nauseated," says Pat Justis of Olympia, Washington, mother of a toddler and active in OUT on a L.I.M.B. (Lesbians in Maternity and Beyond). "I was expecting it, but I am still shell-shocked."

"The Radical Right perpetuates the myths that lesbians and gays are unfit to be parents—unfit to be near children," says Tim Fisher. "The truth is there are over three dozen reputable, scientific studies showing that our kids are no different from kids raised in non-gay households—except ours are a little more tolerant of human differences."

"The Right needs a scapegoat to coalesce its power base, and we're it," explains psychologist April Martin, author of **The Lesbian and Gay Parenting Handbook**. "We're the basis upon which they get people to fork over their money."

As the Radical Right increasingly targets lesbians and gays in general, and moms and dads in particular, parents have increased their activism. "Having a child puts a fire in your belly," says Pat Justis. "This is not a battle where I can sit back, there's too much at stake for my son. I'm writing a letter about this initiative and mailing it to every straight person in my address book."

Public opinion polls show that "coming out" is the most effective and persuasive tactic for lesbians and gays. "The more out we are," agrees Stancich, "the more they know us as human beings—as normal everyday working people and parents."

Currently in the United States, only Florida and New Hampshire outlaw adoption by gays and lesbians; New Hampshire also prohibits foster parenting. In Florida, two counties (Sarasota and Munroe) have declared the gay adoption ban "unconstitutional".

AMERICAN AIRLINES OFFERS HIV/AIDS TRAINING TO EMPLOYEES

San Francisco—American Airlines, under attack for forcibly evicting a person with AIDS from a flight several months ago because he had facial scars and needed to use his infusion therapy equipment during the flight, has agreed to provide company-wide HIV/AIDS trailing and education to all of its employees who come into contact with the public.

The airline agreed to the training as part of an out-of-court settlement of a suit brought by Timothy Holless, 33, a San Francisco resident with Aids. Holless was forced off of a America plane and arrested in Chicago on November 14th after self-administering his medication during the flight, according to media reports.

Flight attendants had previously requested Holless to cover his face to hide HIV-related lesions, according to the National Association of People with AIDS. According to onlookers, Chicago police officials dragged the disabled Holless down the plane's aisle on his stomach, leaving behind his cane and eyeglasses, and arrested him on charges of disorderly conduct for refusing to leave the plane when asked.

Wire reports said that the airline has agreed to work with the National Association of People with AIDS and the National Leadership Coalition on Aids in implementing the employee education program. Holles had not requested monetary damages in his court suit but sought systemic changes in airline policies regarding the disabled.

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AIDS Prevention Team
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FARRAKHAN

by Cleo Manago

HATE HIM,

IGNORE HIM,

LOVE HIM?

Questions of Self-Love, Respect and Guts

It has been my experience that though there are people in our lives whose opinions can make our skin crawl, usually we don't respond by writing them off completely. Despite profound disagreements, our natural, spiritual or intimate connections to these people compel us to endure these difference. Often under other circumstances they have proven by action that they love us. Some of us (myself for example) use these conflicts as an opportunity to inform and engage our loved one's about who we really are.

Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam's track record of service to our community—-reducing crime and drug trafficking throughout the country, developing successful business ventures for African-Americans, setting up health clinics and HIV/AIDS treatment centers, teaching African-American males that they are worthy of more than what the media and general school curriculums present to them—-deems him one of our loved ones, a profound figure in the African-American family. Few in recent times have accomplished what Farrakhan has for African-Americans, including Jesse Jackson, Bill Clinton and Michael Jackson.

On the other hand, Farrakhan, like many of our grandmothers, parents, each other, etc. can be misinformed and ignorant about issues relevant to same-gender loving members of the Black collective.

Many of us have learned to have a negative knee-jerk reaction to the name Farrakhan. Some are instantly enraged, hurt and compelled to react to how homophobic, sexist or racist he is reported to be. Being someone who has been politically active since I was very young, I have attended forums and heard many talks by Minister Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson, Dr. Lenora B. Fulani, Reverend Al Sharpton, Reverend Benjamin Chavis, Dr. Frances Cress Welsing and many others.

Additionally, I have addressed the Nation of Islam at their Los Angeles Temple as a self-respecting and confident Black man who loves men. The response was mixed but essentially respectful and positive. Many men who love men and women who love women avoid addressing these "leaders" directly. They avoid them similarly to how we avoid our families, co-workers and "friends" in fear of being rejected, ridiculed or "discovered" (internalized homophobia). We already assume that our issues will be ignored or negatively received. Determined by this fear, we covertly criticize Farrakhan (and others) in our living rooms and among like-minded associates. We get passionately involved in the racist (white supremacist) one sided, media hype campaigns, often taking the side of the press.

It has been this 'jump on the band wagon', anti-Black community m entality that continues to keep us fragmented, confused and unable to focus on the issues crucial to our survival, health, self image and quality of life. Instead of participating in the white male concocted anti-Farrakhan media frenzy, we need to be dialoguing with him directly.

We need to present our concerns directly in order for our views to be respected.

Due to feed back, the rhythms of contemporary society and the diversity among people of African decent, the Nation of Islam has considered "more progressive" views regarding women and same-gender loving people. Change always comes slowly for those who are silent. Like most men, Farrakhan has been conditioned to react to sexuality and womanist issues with homophobic, femophobic male chauvinism and short-sidedness.

Homophobia and sexism are social and cultural problems that we all have internalized, including homosexuals and women themselves. A change in these attitudes can occur only if we as self-loving African-American men and women come forth. This could result in boldly engaging African-American "leaders" and giving them food for thought. Someone such as Farrakhan who has proven his love-by-action, not simply through rhetoric, should be honored for that. If we dismissed or ignored every individual in our lives for homophobic or backward behavior, most of us wouldn't be talking to each other.

Are we talking to each other??? Think about it.

Recently, I had a conversation with a very famous African-American male singer (who happens to be a man who loves men). I asked him what were his views on Farrakhan. Before I could finish saying the word Fara...,he exclaimed, "I don't agree with him. He's a racist."

I responded, "Could you more specifically identify Farrakhan's activities that have been "racist" in nature?"

He paused for some time. Finally he lowered his voice to a whisper and said, "I agree with almost everything that I've heard him say."

Dumbfounded (but not surprised) I asked him, "Why are you whispering when it's just you and I in the room?"

"I don't know. It's just a habit," he said.

This reminded me of how some of us lower our voices in public places when referring to white racism, a significant other or something "gay".

Secondly, I asked him why was his first reaction so passionate (he seemed a lot less concerned about who was around when denouncing Farrakhan). After pausing and appearing embarrassed, he finally said, "I am afraid to publicly say that I agree with Farrakhan."

I could have gone on and on with more questions in an effort to get this brother to realize how, despite his riches and fame, he was still emotionally and psychologically oppressed. He didn't have the guts to simply say how he really felt about such issues. Oppression functions most effectively when we don't feel safe (or important) enough to say what we really feel.

I don't agree with everything that Minister Farrakhan says, but much of his point of view is necessary. I am convinced that he loves and is concerned about Black people. Being Black myself I have found that this love is necessary.

Don't believe the hype. Love yourself. Know and think for yourself. We must begin to have the strength to face those in our "family" who we love and who fight for the liberation, respect and esteem of Black people and humanity.

If we dismissed or ignored every individual in our lives for homophobic or backward behavior, most of us wouldn't be talking to each other.

(Cleo Manago is the Founder of The Black Men's Xchange (BMX) and Founder/Developer of the African-American AIDS, Support-Services & Survival Institute (AMASSI) in Oakland, California. Currently Mr. Manago is a managing partner for C & M Enterprises; a consulting firm providing program and grant development, planning, marketing and technical assistance to non-profit and for-profit organizations. He is also working on his Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies.)

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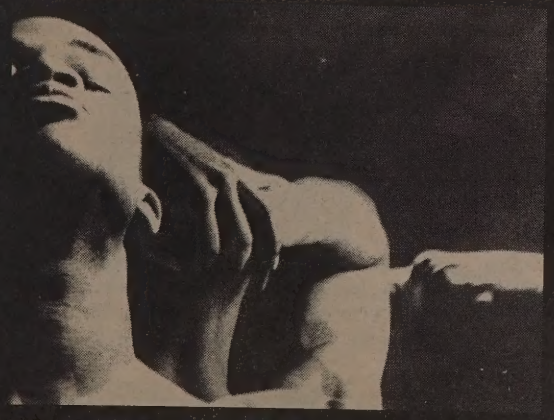

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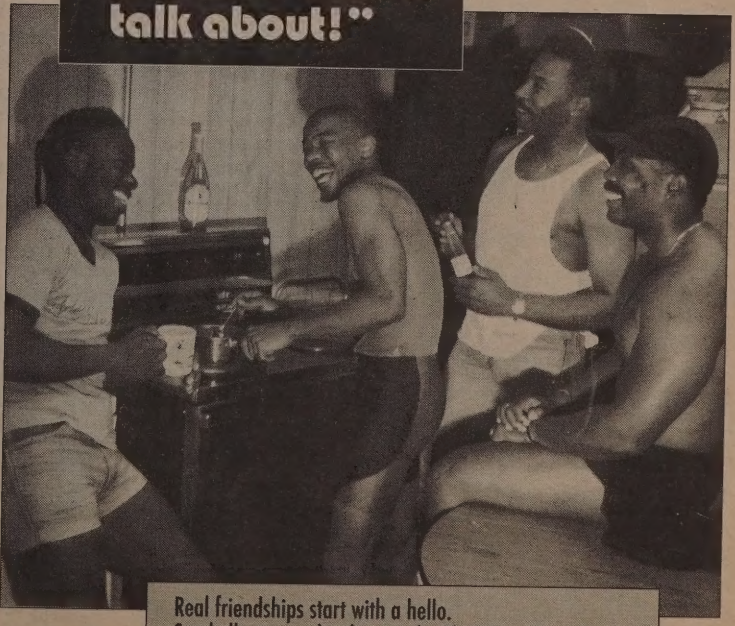
talk about!"



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DC DOINS'

By Mark F. Johnson/Washington D.C. Correspondent

It has bee called the "capitol of the free world", the nation's capitol, "the seat of power", and "chocolate city". But we all know that Washington D.C. is really America's only city for free, empowered and proud chocolate gays and lesbians. Especially when it comes to celebrating that pride.

The West Coast may have the beach, but on Memorial Day weekend, D.C. has the fun in the sun and the heat in the beat! The Fourth Annual Black Gay and Lesbian Pride Weekend, to be held May 27-30, is fast approaching and those of us in D.C. are once again awaiting the onslaught of Black gay men and women from around the world who come to share pride with us during this time of year. This year's event theme is Keep In Stride With Black Pride.

History has shown that the Black Pride celebration becomes a bigger and better event every year ad Pride organizers estimate this year's crowd to be between 5,000 and 6,000. In addition to the "foine" men who push into town (and that is enuf to celebrate right there), there are several parties and receptions attended by Black gay America's most influential names—warehouse and club parties full of sweaty menz in little or nuthin', brunches, film festivals, balls (the kind you dance at) and of course, the Pride Day event itself.

Scheduled entertainers for this year's event include BARBARA TUCKER and her underground artists, ULTRA NATE', the diva from up the road, LONNIE CLARK, and newcomer TONYA BLOUNT.

And look for those two brown sugarbabies, CHRISTOPHER PRINCE and WAYSON JONES, to perform there too! You may have caught these talented musical performers in the late MARLON RIGGS' classic Tongues Un-tied. Both are D.C. natives and they do a lot of gigs in local clubs. Their brand of traditional and pop jazz as well as original fusion pieces keep them booked up around here (and their looks keep them "hooked up" although I understand that lately, one of them is "singing solo".)

As usual, look forward to a lot of surprises during the Pride weekend. My homies ad homettes will go to any length to make sure that the "Black Gay Party Capitol" crown stays right here!...Even if it means doing a live photo shoot of some friendly, hot, naked, Black men who can't conceal their excitement. (This could happen, I ain't tellin'.) But you would want to be there!!!

So hurry up and make reservations. The flights and the hotels ain't gon' get no cheaper! The number to call for more information is 1-800-206-4101. We'll welcome you D.C.-style!

While ruminatin' on the weekend and all the fishin' that you can do in the Dee Cee, remember that there is a serious side to the Pride celebration too.

With money raised from attendance at the Sunday, May 29 Black Pride Day event, donations are given to organizations in the Black community that help minorities living with AIDS.

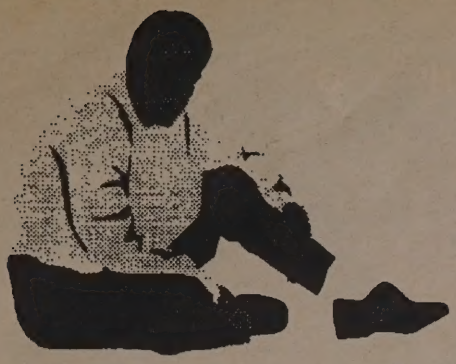
It is a power-building family affair. When we look around and see all those thousands of Black gay brothers and sisters from around the world, how can we feel anything but strong!?!

As long as you're gonna be in the area, why not plan an extended stay? A few weeks after Black Pride Weekend, it will be time to head up New York way for the Gay Games and Stonewall 25, the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion, which pretty much started gay freedom as we know it today.

The Black and Hispanic brothers of 1969 were out in front during this war, and we ought to be there to celebrate their victory against oppression! Besides, New York City is LARGE and FAT during Gay Pride weekend anyways...the clubs, the boyz, the pier...the parties...the parade...it's ALL THAT!!! Put a pink triangle around those calendars for June 26, 1994. The Gay Games start a week or so earlier.

On a personal tip, KEITH JACKSON in Rochester, how sweet it was to see your letter in the March/April 1994 issue of SBC. I'm flattered that you think of me as the Black prince, and, no, I did not think you were nuts. By the way, the Leadership Forum conference last February had its share, but if you really want to admire the beautiful brothers and fill your soul on good things, you'll come to Black Gay ad Lesbian Pride in D.C. Your prince is waiting!

Write to:
Mark F. Johnson
D.C. Doins'/SBC
P.O. Box 75543
Washington, D.C. 20013



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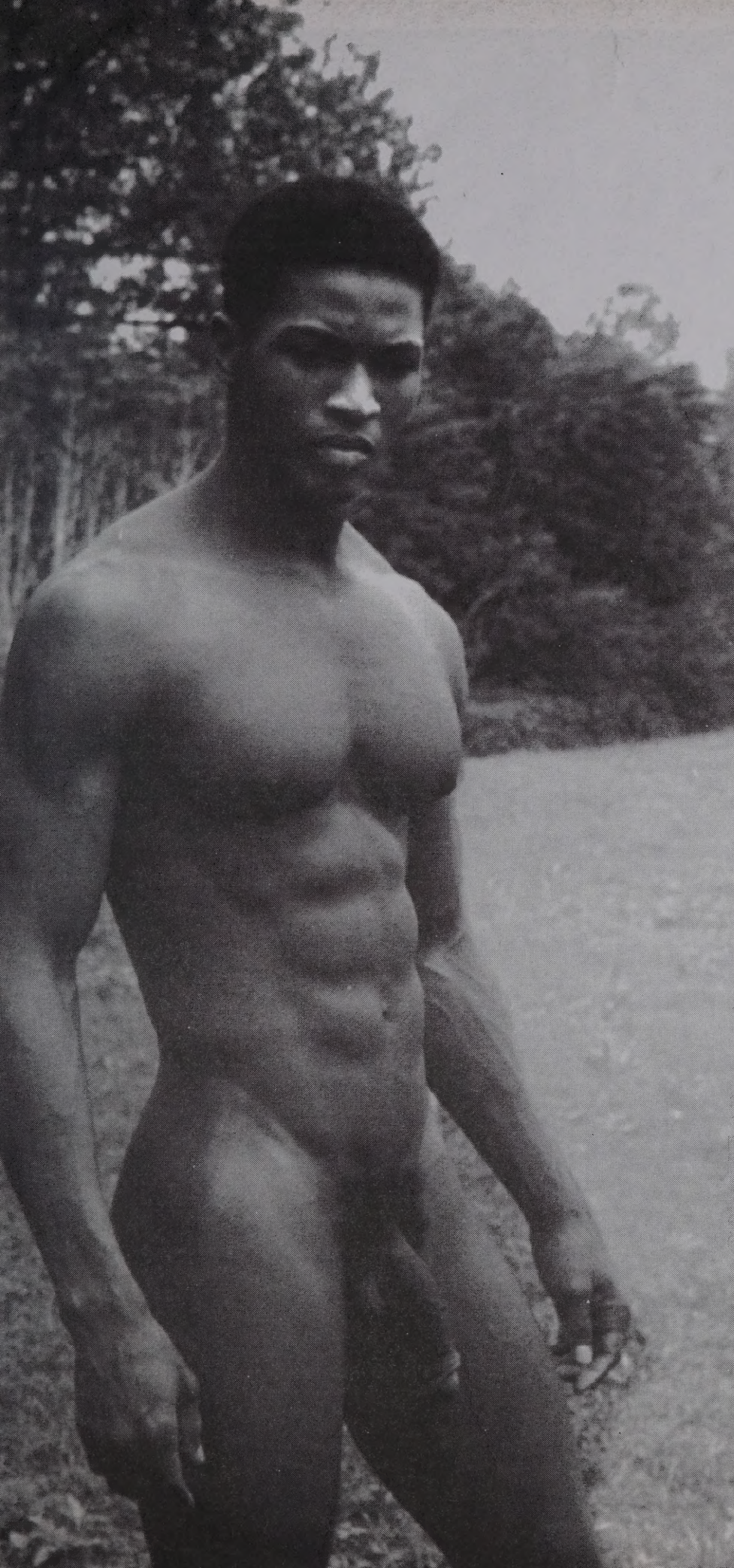
MAN *of* CHOICE

DEVIN *McCoy*

photography by Chip Williford



He was born 23 years ago in Westwood, California but has spent the last 13 years in the hot sun of Houston where he cools off his 5'11" body in the waters of the Texas gulf. A southern boy at heart, the quiet and sensitive nature of Devin McCoy becomes more than apparent.

He loves to read. He loves Whitney Houston. His boyish good looks contrasted by an introspective nature—a sometimes mysterious aura—has earned him more than a few assignments as a catalogue and billboard model.

And he confesses that, of late, his mood has been altered by the recent end of a very passionate two-year relationship that has made him, a hopeless romantic, just a little leery.

"I've run toward the hills, but I haven't given totally up. I'm trying to date, trying to get over this, trying to give myself time to heal and grow up a bit, so if that right person does come along I can give him a whole person instead of someone trying to get over a hurt...and hopefully he'll do the same for me."

Devin is currently a Junior at the University of Houston studying Marine Biology. He works out everyday, loves to read and loves Whitney Houston.

He is also a brother of strong character with a respectful and powerful fear of God and no fear of peer pressure.

"I managed all my life to stay away from drugs and the street. That's probably more because of my parents then me. I was brought up with a fear of God not a fear of what other people might think. I just never succumbed to peer pressure."

He has hopes of moving to Atlanta one day, having been sufficiently energized by the city during a visit there last Labor Day weekend.

"It was really positive, really positive for Blacks. I felt really young and invincible."

Devin considers his extreme sensitivity his best and worst qualities:

"The best because it allows me to have feelings and empathy for other people, basically caring about how somebody else feels. It's my worst because when you're sensitive and nice, people think they can walk all over you."

For now, as he ponders his studies at the University with an enthusiastic eye on a career as a Marine Biologist, Devin McCoy also ponders the state of our community.

"I wish that blacks in general would organize and be more positive instead of letting envy and greed effect everything. This what-can-you-do-for-me thing is not going to work. It should be more what-can-you-do-for-yourself. The only way we're going to get strong and stay strong is to get together and stay together.

Devin McCoy. SBC's Man of Choice. May 1994.

DEVIN
McCoy

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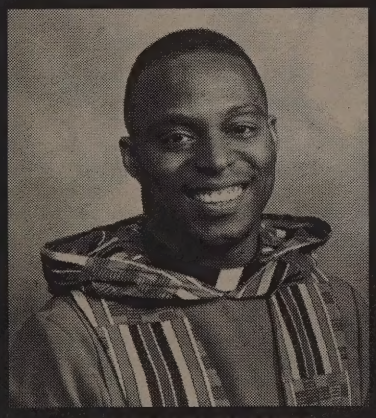
Presiding Bishop and Founder, Unity Fellowship Church Movement
Founding Pastor, Unity Fellowship Church, Los Angeles

"Congratulations! Because of your efforts, freedom has come to many of our sisters and brothers!"

BISHOP CARL BEAN
AND THE
UNITY FELLOWSHIP FAMILY

GOD IS LOVE AND LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE



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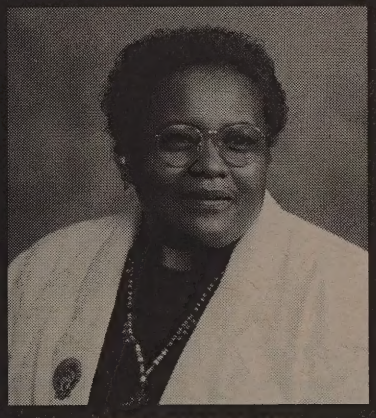

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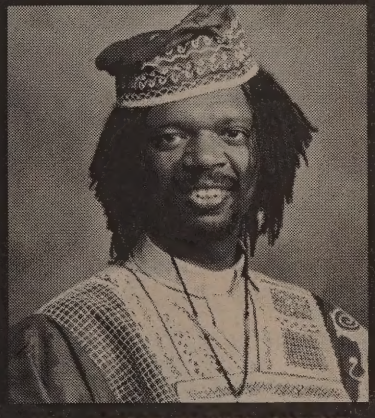

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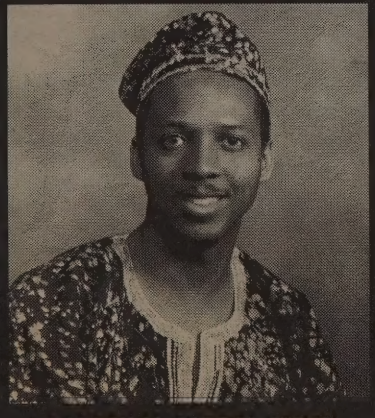

DARREN McCARROL-JONES
National Musical Director
Minister of Music,
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DR. MARJORIE HILL
Chair
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Unity Fellowship Church Movement

Unity Fellowship Church Movement

LOS ANGELES
DETROIT
NEW YORK
WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHERE IS BLACK BEAUTY?

(In Search of a Black Aesthetic)

By Kheven La Grone

One of my best friends is a Japanese woman. Her husband is white. When their son, Li'l Kenny, was two years old, he fondly called me "Uncle Kheven". At the shopping mall, he'd point, smile and fondly call every Black man "Uncle Kheven". Even at this tender age, he saw color.

So I do not accept the cliche, "I don't see color, I see people". Why must someone CHOOSE not to "see" MY color?

It's acceptable to "see" blue eyes and blond hair. Most love stories feature blue-eyed blondes. Their coloring is emphasized within the first paragraphs. A Black man told me he doesn't see color, then recalled all his blue-eyed lovers. I've heard more than one Black person describe a particularly attractive white man as a "Nordic god". Last year on national news, a United States military officer described his son as a recruiter's dream—blond hair and blue eyes. There was no uproar in the press.

I heard no one challenge why blond hair and blue eyes made a recruiter's dream. Black America must share in the blame. We ourselves have adopted the Nordic god ideal, the paper bag test and the fine-toothed comb test as measuring sticks of our acceptability—nagging residues of slavery and white supremacy. Few of the women models in Black magazines are dark-skinned with short nappy hair. The "pretty" women in Black music videos have long straight hair or good weaves. We call this "good hair", but what's so good about it? Simple—it looks white.

We ourselves have adopted the Nordic god ideal, the paper bag test and the fine-toothed comb test as measuring sticks of our acceptability—nagging residues of slavery and white supremacy.

And we passed down this tradition of Black demotion early. A little Black girl gets her hair "pressed" so she will look neat and groomed—so she will be acceptable. She nervously eyes the red hot metal sizzling toward her young head. At the same time, her mother warns her not to "jump" or she'll get burned. If the young girl is "cursed with that thick, nappy Black shit", the comb had to be even hotter and the straightening torture takes more time—almost becoming a punishment for being too Black.

And if her tender ears, neck or forehead get burnt in this dangerous ritual, was it worth the attainment of straight hair—or the reprieve from her own natural curls?

Today, a trip to the ethnic grooming section of any store invariably includes stack upon stack of hair straighteners—for men, women and children. There are "relaxers" to make "coarse, unruly" hair more manageable and to prevent tight curls from growing into "buckshot". Why do we risk scalding our scalps with lye and label it "grooming"? Isn't this a small attainment of whiteness? Or is it a short REPRIEVE from our blackness?

Are we passing down to our children that they must be chemically-altered to be desirable or even acceptable?

We made the attainment of whiteness (or at least some reprieve from our blackness) our beauty standard, perfect whiteness epitomizing our ideal. Fair equals lovely and light in color. Black means coarse and ugly. During recess, Black school children spew invectives like "black, ugly monkey" at each other.

Black desirability adhered to the one drop rule—"your light complexion may be less tainted than my darker hue, but you're just a nigger too." Beauty often had little to do with aesthetic (and desirability was measured by degrees of whiteness). Blacks deemed attractive had simply attained more whiteness or they were merely less "Black and ugly" than others. Pure whiteness reigns supreme.

In our quest for pure whiteness, we risked missing a Black aesthetic. We might not have seen the colorful sass and sashay of the Black prima donna. We might have missed a Black man's tight curls twisted and twirled into short dredlocks. I might have overlooked the copper ornament highlighting the copper glow in my own skin tone.

So Black American aesthetics are now placed on trial.

...there is no progress when a Black man announces "I see no color". Progress is a Black man appreciating and desiring Black aesthetics—from red-bone to blue-black.

And I argue that there is no progress when a Black man announces "I see no color". Progress is a Black man appreciating and desiring Black aesthetics—from red-bone to blue-black. Progress is a sable hued princess exalted in a rap video. We can truly raise our fist with the 70's chant "Black is beautiful" when a nappy-headed Miss Black America proudly sports her natural hair.

We are taught not to appreciate color. We can allow ourselves to appreciate it. Today, Li'l Kenny seems to appreciate my color. Or should I say he has not learned to deplore my color—YET. He's still young. But I worry that one day he may feel some need to say "I don't see color, I see people", when referring to a Black woman—then extol some buxom blond. Black has a beauty that must be seen to be appreciated. I, myself, will pass this down to Li'l Kenny.

HOPETON STEWART
PHOTOGRAPHER
(510)832-7462

THE AIDS PREVENTION TEAM'S

GRIOT

By Blaine Teamer, Treatment Advocate
transcribed by Parris Gill

THE MEN IN MY LIFE:

SPOTLIGHT ON JOSEPH BERNARD

About two years ago, I got a call from a woman. Her brother was dying and she wanted to know if there was anything that our agency could do. I told her that we'd be out there as soon as possible. When my co-worker and I got out there we were greeted by a whole congregation of people, literally. This man was involved and highly respected in the church, a leader. He was on his way out and his congregation was saying their goodbyes. I spoke to the man and discovered that he had one of the best HIV specialist that money can buy in Los Angeles. However, this man was still in the dark about his health. Why? He had not empowered himself to heal himself. Therefore all the medication and specialists in the world could not save him. The same year that I met this man I met Joseph Bernard.

It's your body and in order for you to make decisions about your body you need to be informed.

Joseph Bernard was one of the first men that I met when I came to Los Angeles. He really redefined the image that I had of the person living with HIV. He was a young, educated, independent and very healthy health care professional who continues to volunteer much of his time at an AIDS service organization.

As our relationship developed, Joseph constantly brought me information and resources to help me with my job as Treatment Advocate. Actually, when the agency first got started, he was one of the first volunteer facilitator for our support group. I really appreciate the help and support that he has give to the agency over the past three years. He continues, at 33 years of age, to be an inspiration for me and is one of The Men in My Life.

BLAINE: I just saw a really good video called "HIV Survival Guide: Diet for Living in the Age of AIDS". I thought about you, Joseph, when I saw it because Dr. Joan Priestly is in it. When I first met you about 2 1/2 years ago you were working with Dr. Priestly. Can you tell me what she is about and what attracted you to her practice?

JOSEPH: Before I get into that I would like to tell you about when I first got tested. I had a friend who was 50 years old. This friend would always warn me about AIDS and that I should get tested. He would tell me that if I am positive there are early treatments out there. He was not speaking of AZT, he was speaking of holistic treatments.

I soon found out that someone I was with had died of AIDS, and hadn't practiced safe sex. With the encouragement of my friend I went to my doctor. My doctor was very supportive and 10 days later he called in the middle of the night. When your doctor calls you in the middle of the night it is not good news. I was kind of numb, but I was concerned about what my T-cell count was. I found that it was in the 900's, and it has remained that way.

I was reading the L.A. Weekly and there was an article on Holistic treatments for HIV patients. I called Dr. Priestly whose program basically consists of holistic treatment for HIV. This means treating the whole person. For example, before you can see her you must fill out a questionnaire. You must answer some very personal questions. She also encourages her patients to come out about their status and their homosexuality. She feels that trying to hide and lie puts a lot of stress on the immune system. I too believe that it does cause a lot of stress. I have friends that lie to their families and boyfriends and it's stressful for them. Dr. Priestly believes in building the immune system with vitamins and herbs. Drugs like AZT compromise the system. Recent research indicates that Dr. Priestly was right.

B.T.: What do you think of antiviral, or give your opinion on antiviral in general.

J.B.: Well all of the present antiviral are cousins of AZT. What AZT does is it stops RNA synthesis and this is necessary for the life cells. So AZT kills thousands of white cells including T-cells that may be infected, however, it goes on to kill healthy cells as well.

AZT is not a new drug. It was discovered in 1964. It was used initially as a anti-cancer drug, but they couldn't use it because it tended to kill the patients faster than the cancer.

B.T.: How do you balance what the doctors tell you, what the media tells you and what you feel is right?

J.B.: First thing you need to do is read as much as possible about the illness that you have, whether it's HIV, cancer, cycle cell, or whatever. It helps, and remember, doctors are not gods. What it comes down to basically is that it's your body and in order for you to make decisions about your body you need to be informed. For example, I have several friends who are doctors and they've told me that while in college they get no training in nutrition. Therefore, when you go to most doctors and ask about vitamin therapy, they tend to dismiss the whole idea. Generally this is because they don't know anything about it. From my experience, most doctors are not brave enough to tell you "I don't know, and I need to read more". The truth of it is we need to know more about this.

B.T.: People like to wait till the last minute to go to the doctor, ad when they get there they put so much faith in what the doctor has to say. Why do you think one becomes so dependent of one type of resource? Why not go out and find other ways to heal the sickness?

J.B.: It's a lot easier to depend on your doctor because devising your own health plan is a lot of hard work. You have to do a lot of reading. Most people don't have the time and they're overwhelmed. When I first found out I was positive, I went through my period of crying and depression. However I felt one can't wallow in it. Life goes on. You never know what'll happen tomorrow.

B.T.: What does your treatment regimen look like?

J.B.: I take megadoses of vitamins and high doses of antioxidants. I engage in exercise such as weight training. According to research exercise is good for those who are HIV positive. Wasting syndrome is one of the major causes of death with AIDS. Your body looses muscle mass, and they are finding that exercises increases your muscle mass. When one gets sick he/she will have more of a reserve of muscle mass through exercise.

We have taken on Northern European Christian values about sex. That means that homosexuality is bad.

B.T.: So Joan worked with you on creating the vitamin protocols? Was that specifically for you? If someone else went to her would they be on different protocols?

J.B.: Yes, my regimen was created for me. Most definitely someone else would be doing different protocols.

B.T.: Does she figure what your weak area would be?

J.B.: Yeah! She took several different blood tests in addition to interviewing me before she devised a protocol for me.

B.T.: What mental work do you do?

J.B.: A number of my friends have died in the past few years. I just try and keep things in perspective. Since I work in the healthcare profession, I see that people who are HIV positive are not the only ones dealing with severe illnesses. These people also deal with rejection and abandonment. So it helps me to be more grateful.

B.T.: Do you have a therapist or have you had a therapist in the past?

J.B.: I have been in therapy before. The major issue I have is **when people, specifically Black folks, find out that I'm positive, they tend to treat me differently. They treat you like you're already gone or you're going to be gone soon.** They have this idea you'll be dead within a year.

B.T.: What I don't particularly understand is within the Black community we have this thing with secrecy. You can't talk about anything. You're not to say anything, etc...However, in the Black gay community a large portion of the population is HIV positive.

J.B.: At least 1/3 of the population is infected with the HIV virus. But it seems like no one talks about it. When someone dies they say it's cancer. Like this funeral I'm supposed to go to. I'm sure they'll say he died of cancer at the ceremony. They won't say it was AIDS related.

B.T.: The crazy part about it is historically we're very oral people. When we were in Africa everything was oral. Now we're at this point where we can't say anything. I think that has had an effect that will continue to get worse. What do you think?

J.B.: I think that it all revolves around sex. We have taken on Northern European Christian values about sex. That means that homosexuality is bad. This is why we have major issues with HIV/AIDS. Now if it was some other disease that you didn't get from sexual contact, I don't think it would be a problem for a Black gay man to admit that he is gay and enjoyed being receptive when engaging in anal sex. Let's be honest, that's how most of us got it. It is a difficult thing to do in this society because you're seen as less than a man.

B.T.: When you are out about your status, a lot of men turn away. These men are probably infected and don't know it or are in denial. Do you think that being out intimidates men? I'm sure it makes them look at themselves.

J.B.: I think so. I met one guy in a casual sexual environment. We fooled around in this place and there was no reason to tell. Later he called me and he wanted to see me again. I felt he wanted to develop something, and I decided that if he wanted to continue this I needed to tell him. When I told him his response was kind of bizarre. He told me he really liked me, but it would have been better if I hadn't told him. He would have continued seeing me. He would have felt better not knowing about my HIV status.

B.T.: Do you know if he was HIV positive?

J.B.: He has not been tested.

B.T.: That's typical.

J.B.: Then there are those who lie to you and say it doesn't matter, then you never hear from them again.

B.T.: Why do you think that people are still engaging in behaviors that puts them at risk?

J.B.: I know some guys that refuse to use a condom during intercourse. In each instance I was taken aback by it. I have friends that tell me the same thing even in New York is fairly common, especially with young people. It shocks me when someone so young, in their teens, is risking their life. I think that part of the problem is denial. Most may feel it can't happen to them.

Most recently **I was at this college dance and this young guy was looking at me. I went over to talk to him and during the conversation I asked, "do you practice safe sex?" He replied "no!" I was like, "don't you realize that there are diseases out there that can kill you?" He said that he didn't think that he would be alive by the time he is 35 anyway.**

B.T.: Why is that?

J.B.: With violence and with AIDS, eventually it's gonna happen. It's a general hopelessness.

B.T.: What do you contribute your overall quality of life to?

J.B.: Being a Bitch! Oh no don't write that.

B.T.: Well you joke about that but a lot of long term survivors are, I don't want to say bitchy, but aggressive.

J.B.: Yeah! I was reading a book by David Segal. He worked with long term cancer patients. He says that to be a long term survivor, one must be a difficult patient with their doctor. This means asking questions, confronting your doctor if you feel his advice is wrong, get different opinions from other doctors. Unfortunately a lot of us are really passive. We tend to think of doctors like gods and don't question. I must admit I have an advantage because I work in the healthcare field. I see things that most people don't.

B.T.: I don't even think that is it. There is something about people who are long term survivors. I hope that by doing these interviews we can figure it out. I have seen people who have masters and are in the healthcare professions. They have the resources, but once infected they don't have the tenacity or the aggressiveness.

J.B.: They just give up. My friend who had wasting syndrome had money. His lover had money. He could have gone to one of the best doctors who specializes in HIV. They had resources and knew, but refused. It just makes me want to pull my hair out sometimes.

B.T.: I see people who have no money, have no resources but somehow through agencies like APT get information from seminars, etc...They are the Bitchy ones, the aggressive ones, who are up front in the first row. There is some type of link.

J.B.: For our brothers I feel we have to inform them that to get the best service from an AIDS agency, one has to be out there. Also, one should be out. I mean, I have one friend who hasn't told his doctor that he is gay. He feels that it isn't important. I think to get good healthcare one should at least tell their doctor.

B.T.: A lot of it is some people can't admit to themselves that they are gay. There are so many issues that people have to overcome, and then they're also working with a time clock.

The other thing is, guys without cars, without jobs, without money make it to ATB (At The Beach) on the 4th of July. This is all the way out in Malibu. They walk 3 miles from whatever transportation to the beach in their fabulous outfits. But in their own city they won't go to a free seminar that is 2 miles.

J.B.: It's really something. I mean I see folks at the clubs dancing and they refuse to do something that would save their lives. This funeral that I was suppose to go to. The guy was in denial. He went to a homophobic church and was dating a woman.

These Black gay men need to stop feeling guilty and stop infecting other people.

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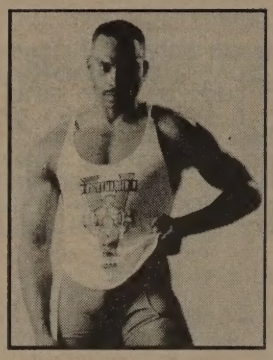

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These Black gay men need to stop feeling guilty and stop infecting other people. I was just overwhelmed when I heard about this guy and the woman.

B.T.: How many Black men do you know personally that are HIV positive?

J.B.: I know at least 10 people who died of AIDS.

B.T.: In what time frame?

J.B.: In 2 years. Some are my associates, some are my close friends. Some are people I happen to know and 10 have died. I know about 15 that are alive.

B.T.: Do you ever get numb because of losing so many friends?

J.B.: I think I have lost the ability to cry. People think I'm rally pragmatic. I scared off one guy. He said I was harsh with him. I have seen so much on my job I've gotten numb.

B.T.: Do you ever look at some friends and say they could still be here if they only had done such and such?

J.B.: I don't know if they would still be here, but the quality of life could have been better. Like some of the people that I have mentioned earlier, their quality of life was shit. I mean, folks take their AZT thinking it'll help and still go out and have McDonald's, Burger King, smoking and drinking.

B.T.: Talk about your coming out process as a gay man.

J.B.: I always knew that I was different. In high school I started reading books like 'The Homosexual Male'. At first, I thought it was just a phase. **I felt really guilty about letting down my family. Finally, I decided I had to be true to myself. I have always had high respect for other people. I just couldn't use a female as a cover up. I couldn't love her the way that she would want to be loved.** I wouldn't want to be used like that by anyone.

I was in Northern California where they had services at a church for gay youth. I had a support system and it was easy for me to come out.

B.T.: How do you think your life has changed since your diagnosis?

J.B.: When I first found out, I thought , well I'm gonna die. I felt cheated and bitter. I was very angry. I soon realized that life goes on. I should enjoy the quality of life that I have. Eventually, I found out that HIV is not a fatal illness. My T-cells have not changed in the 4 years that I have known. When I get my blood work done, every thing seems to be normal. The only thing is I'm HIV positive. I think as time goes on there will be a high percentage of people like me.

B.T.: Do you think that the regimen that you do is something that people should be doing regardless of their status?

J.B.: All gay men should be doing it because with people having sex all the time they are exposed to bacteria and other viruses that could be harmful. I think one should be taking vitamins, eat right and exercise, etc...

B.T.: When you look at other people who have been around for a long time. What do you think is the common link for survival?

J.B.: From what I've seen they tend to be out about their status. They tend to continue to go on with their lives. They don't do things that suppress the immune system—drinking, smoking. One just doesn't give up.

Also, these people seek out help when they need it.

B.T.: What does your emotional support network look like?

J.B.: Fortunately **I have some very close friends I can call on for emotional support. I am wise enough to seek out professional help when needed. I guess you can say that I'm somewhat spiritual, so I call on higher resources.** The main thing that truly helps me is just talking with friends.

B.T.: If you could put a patent on any type treatment therapy, what would it be?

J.B.: As far as therapy for HIV, I wouldn't put a patent on it. I would want everyone to have access to it. I don't want to make a profit off something like that. And natural stuff couldn't be patented anyway. This is the reason no major research have been done in those area. I certainly would like to promote Holistic treatments and spirituality. One needs to heal the internalized homophobia and self-hatred.

B.T.: If you had an open line to all the readers of SBC, what would you say?

J.B.: I feel one should get tested early. It gives you the opportunity to get early treatment. If you wait, the problem will only get worse. It will be too late to do anything. The sooner you know about your status, the easier it will be to maintain your health.

ADODI:

A SAFE SPACE FOR BLACK GAY MEN IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

The word Adodi is a Portuguese term derived from the Yoruba language of West Africa. It means "homosexual Black men".

By
Tracy C. Gibson,
Philadelphia
Correspondent

Alleviating traits and emotions that block personal growth is a goal of many organizations in the U.S. that dedicate themselves to improving the life experience of gay and bisexual men of African decent.

One such organization trying to find avenues for these men to stop feeling victimized by internalized homophobia and self hatred is Adodi Philadelphia Inc.

The support group now called Adodi was formed in 1986 when some gay African American men got together and decided the isolation faced by people like them in Philadelphia during the AIDS era had to end.

Adodi concerns itself with helping its members live full, rich, productive and meaningful lives. The goal is to achieve this by learning effective coping mechanisms, experiencing self discovery, enjoying fellowship and benefiting from the examples of other Adodi members.

Adodi was formed to, as the group's late president and major co-founder, Clifford Angelo Rawlins, once said, "provide a safe place for Black gay and bisexual men.

The word Adodi is a Portuguese term derived from the Yoruba language of West Africa. It means "homosexual Black men". In a interview before his death in late 1993, Rawlins, a creative arts therapist, noted that Adodi started out holding weekly house meetings for less than a dozen men. The numbers grew and grew. Soon the group was doing workshops that dealt with health issues. "Then we started doing one day conferences and three day retreats," Rawlins explained about the 8 year old organization that has, along with its brother organization, Adodi New York, touched the lives of thousands of brothers.

The current president of Adodi, Tony Parrish, who at 21 will graduate from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School this year, reiterated the words of Rawlins. Parrish stressed that Adodi is about self growth.

"The 'safe space' Adodi provides allows the members of the support group to identify whatever problems they want to work on," he explained.

"Adodi is a type of process. The various activities, workshops, retreats and conferences develop an atmosphere of cohesion and sharing among everyone," Parrish said. He noted that Adodi's events attract people from other states who come in for the larger activities. Then there are the people who attend the Friday evening meetings. Both of these groups contribute their time to Adodi and Adodi, in turn, provides that 'safe space' and an avenue for self growth.

Adodi allows for the expression of needs, concerns, conflicts and emotions that would not easily be related in dissimilar settings.

In Adodi meetings men find themselves coming to grips with their own issues because other brothers have expressed similar concerns and conflicts. Each individual becomes a role model at one point or another in one way or another. The conflicts may be internal or external.

Some of the issues expounded on in Adodi Philadelphia's ongoing Friday night meetings include internalized homophobia, improving self esteem, interacting more positively with family members concerning one's sexuality, coming out stories, intimate relationships, safe sex, denial, relieving self hatred, HIV related concerns and friendships.

And indeed ***deep and lasting friendships have developed among the members of Adodi*** resulting in many outside social/cultural events and parties being jointly attended by the group's members.

What would Parrish do if Adodi was extended a $100,000 grant with no strings attached? The first thing on the agenda would be a permanent space for the organization.

"A community center would allow for more activities to reach out into the community at large on a local level as well as implementing programs, retreats and conferences."

A few years ago Parrish was a teenager. Now he says the way to attract young people to the program and activities of Adodi is to connect a conference to something like a dance.

"If you attend a conference you get into the dance free," Parrish said. He mentioned that this strategy connects young people's love for socializing and having a good time with working on self improvement issues. He also pointed out that outreaching to area campuses and student groups would be a strategy.

Self esteem is an issue mentioned often in Adodi circles.

"It's a matter of choices. Do we choose to have unsafe sex and unhealthy relationships?" Parrish pondered. "Or healthy relationships and safe sex."

Depression, drug abuse and alcoholism. These are some of the telling points of people among us who have problems with self esteem, Parrish noted. He also said better self esteem and the opportunity to relate to men with similar issues can make family matters smoother.

Recently Adodi held a "Celebration of Life" event to remember its fallen leader, Clifford Angelo Rawlins. There was a discussion of Black gay men's literature, a poetry reading, personal remembrances of Rawlins and Reverend Frank Tyson's comparison of Rawlins to Moses. Adodi's Vice President, Lynburg Scott, spoke at the end of the event and affirmed that the men who had worked so hard for and with Adodi and had left this life in 1993 :"would not die in vain." Many attending planned to press on with Adodi's goals and plans which include attaining tax exempt status as soon as possible.

A film festival is also in the works.

To reach Adodi Philadelphia Inc, write them at P.O. Box 7872, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101 or call 215.546.5483.

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janet.

Period. The title rings out as clear as the liberty bell. More mature than the declarations of teen angst on 1986's Control and more relevant than the socio-conscious declarations of 1990's *Rhythm Nation 1814*, *janet.* is a declaration of independence—an independence that takes its shape in the form of a largely unheralded feminism and a newly but wholeheartedly embraced sexuality. While feminist posers like **MADONNA** take short cuts and get all the credit, icons like **JANET JACKSON** quietly forge ahead, taking the high road to critical and popular success and exhibiting newfound independence in all its glory.

Janet is currently demonstrating her personal emancipation proclamation on her janet. world tour which recently stopped in Los Angeles for three sold-out shows at the Forum. Bolstered by an enthusiastic crowd that included such celebrities as **BOBBY BROWN** (sans wife **WHITNEY**), **JOHN SINGLETON**, **ANGELA BASSET**, **ANTONIO SEBATO, JR.**, **BEBE WINANS** and mom **KATHERINE JACKSON**, Janet wooed the audience with her amazing dancing ability, her ever-improving vocal talents and her impeccable staging and choreography. In other words, the girl threw down.

Take the opening number. The lights went up, and in a surprisingly nonflashy fashion, Janet appeared kneeling at the front of the stage surrounded by the dancers, her identity somewhat concealed by a large hat which she quickly removed. She greeted her audience, which was stunned at the absence of fanfare, and immediately launched into the rousing and innovative "If." A woman's unflinching night club confession of man lust and longing, "If" is a sexy, throbbing dance number whose appeal is only heightened by its feminist ideal—that a woman should not be afraid to make the first move in words and deeds. (Sadie Hawkins lives on.)

For those critics who find the If brand of feminism too unspecific or argue that it's unintentional, Janet has a prescription for that brand of lack of faith. For "This Time," her tale of a woman scorned by a unfaithful and abusive husband, Janet pulls out all the stops. During the song's haunting intro featuring eerily beautiful operatic riffs by diva **KATHLEEN BATTLE**, the tour's choreographer, **TINA LANDON**, performs a dramatic **ALVIN AILEY**-influenced dance exhibition of the pain, sorrow, and ultimately, the anger and resolve of the song's heroine. In a bit of musical theatre, the woman goes on to catch her husband in bed with another

janet

the black

pop

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the

madonna

girl

immaterial

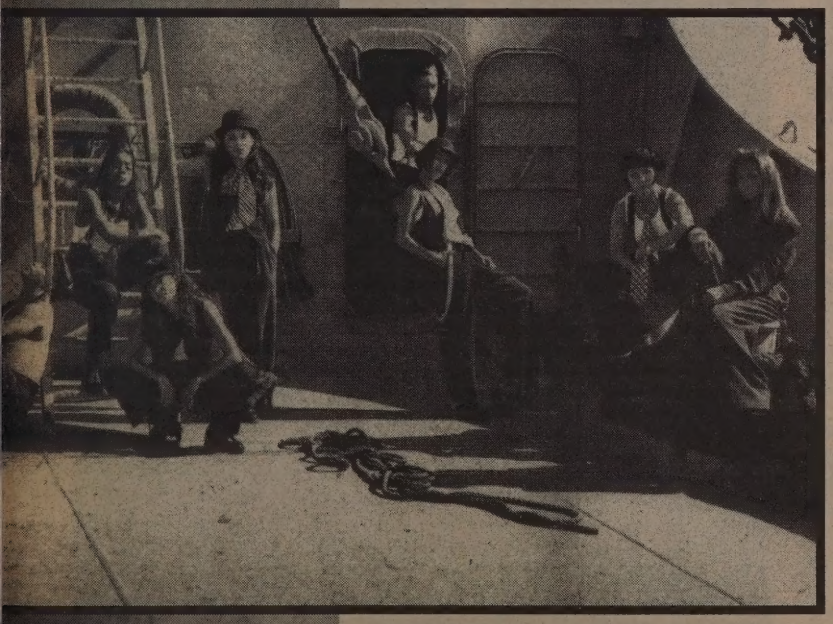
PHOTOGRAPHY BY YURI ELIZONDO

VIEWS AND RE-VIEWS by Patrik-Ian Polk, *Music Editor*

woman, suffer more physical abuse, then finally gather the strength to fight back, pack her bags and get the hell out. Hovering atop a large platform center stage is Janet, singing the tale and overseeing it all while donning a large kelly green cape flowing freely behind her as she and the group of female dancers "escort" the nasty gentleman off to off-stage oblivion. Janet not only establishes herself as Queen of her domain, but encourages all women to do the same, banishing the abusive and unfaithful from her castle.

History hidden from me to hide my identity
So I never feel I am somebody
You've gouged my eyes, I see more clearly
You tried to rob my humanity
Because of my gender
I've heard no too many times
Because of my race
I've heard no too many times
But with every no I grow in strength, That is why
African-American woman I stand tall with pride
Amen, all that we've been through
Our time has come to rejoice
A new agenda is due

It's no coincidence that all a white pop star like Madonna has to do is grab her crotch in a music video to be considered a feminist, while black women like Janet Jackson, who consistently assert feminist power and ideals have to wait years before that same credit is attributed to them. But this kind of racism in the media is nothing new. What is new is the quiet reserve with which our 90's Black pop stars are declaring their Black feminist principles—Whitney Houston, by remaking "I'm Every Woman" and then populating the video with nothing but beautiful Black women of all shapes, shades and ages, and Janet Jackson, by writing songs like New Agenda and If. Never before has the mainstream audience so completely embraced these kinds of quietly overt expressions of African-American feminism. And that espousal, however unconscious, has caused that same mainstream audience to push phony feminists like Madonna right out of the limelight.



If Madonna's embarrassing appearance on the **DAVID LETTERMAN** show a few weeks ago proved anything it was that the Material Girl really is immaterial. True to her growing 80's has-been m.o., she cracked crude jokes and made unwitty remarks, constantly resorting to obscenities, only to be trounced by the late night host's comic wit and verve. Madonna handed Dave her head on a stick.

With her *Truth or Dare* concert documentary, Madonna tried to paint a picture of herself as the matriarch of a close-knit group of dancers. Of course, we now know this picture to be an illusion. Madonna merely exploited these gay Black, Asian and Latino men to make her film the least bit interesting, then refused to pay them for airing their laundry on camera. A number of said dancers have since filed suit against her for compensation for their roles in the film. Often accused of copying Madonna's *Truth or Dare* pose with regards to her tour dancers, Janet succeeds where Madonna has failed. We really do believe Janet's relationship with her dancers. Why? Because she gives us every reason to. The dancers are highlighted in her videos, in her tour book and in personal appearances. One of the dancers, **TISH**, the infamous prankster in the "That's The Way Love Goes" video, is a South Central native whom Janet has taken under her wing and helped to start college in addition to giving her a dancer's opportunity of a lifetime.

My cohort and partner in crime, **DIONNE BENNETT**, a writer of black feminist theory and a avid **BELL HOOKS** disciple, put it best:

"The bottom line is that when the curtain closes on the janet. tour, these dancers will have resumés and public personas that will allow them to have careers long after their professional ties to Miss Jackson have been severed."

Madonna merely squeezes out everything she can and quickly moves on. And this kind of personal and professional appropriation is outdated.

Another outdated trend is Madonna's reliance on the technique of re-invention. At the very least, Janet has learned that the 90's pop music audience is not willing to accept manufactured images and personas in lieu of real personal growth and maturity. This is why Janet would never make another *Control*, or for that matter, another *Rhythm Nation*. The time for that brand of arguably disingenuous artistic expression has passed. Today's music listeners want the real deal. And if pop icons are not willing to give them that, then the audience is quick to move on. Madonna's *Erotica* album is a case in point. This album of house and club music bombed miserably. The fact is, by the time

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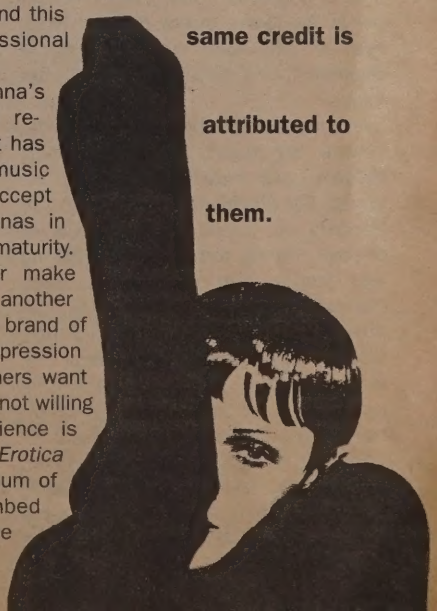

Madonna can no longer shock us and therefore, her primary talent is of no use. She is dismissed.

Erotica was released, house music had been around a long time and had already found its way into the mainstream. Madonna simply failed to get to it in time to successfully appropriate yet another art form. Actually, she did. Let's not forget the huge smash "Vogue". But she should have quit while she was ahead.

Exhibiting much savvy, Janet resisted the urge to proliferate another "concept" album and wisely produced an eclectic mix of songs exhibiting a newfound embracing of both her adult, female sexuality and her Black feminist ideals. The mid-tempo, sparse groove of "That's The Way Love Goes" ("Reach out and feel my body. I'm gonna give you all my love."). The innovative melding of hard rock and industrial synthesizers on the sexual fantasy "If." The western guitar and operatic wailings of "This Time." The slow, blue-light funk of "Anytime, Anyplace" (referring to exactly what you think—sex). The straightforward, in-your-face Black feminism of "New Agenda," featuring **PUBLIC ENEMY**'S **CHUCK D.** The heart-felt piano ballad "Again." Throughout the album, Janet proves to us over and over that she means business. "Yes, I am a sexual being. Yet, I am a strong Black woman. Yes, if you fuck with me, I will retaliate," she tells us through her music.

And again, we believe Janet. We believe her music. We accept it as genuine and heartfelt—just as we accept her playful comraderie with the dancers in public appearances or onstage during the concerts, just as we accept that her voice, once dismissed as too small and weak, has grown considerably since her first concert tour, just as we accept the image of Janet Jackson as that of a real person because the progression has been a slow and steady one.

From the calculated rebellion of *Control* to the politically correct, approval-seeking *Rhythm Nation* to the sexy, adult smash *janet.*, Janet has not simply arrived, but she has allowed us to witness and trace every stage of that arrival. In 1991, when Janet shed the black military garb of Rhythm Nation and donned tight jeans and halter top for the video "Love Will Never Do Without You," people took note. Likewise, last year, when she posed semi-nude on the cover of Rolling Stone with her boyfriend's hands cupping her breasts, it was a media event. Some critics have actually argued that Janet is merely borrowing a page from Madonna's book of sexually explicit behavior. But since when was Madonna granted a patent on sexuality? Women, especially Black women, have been working some sex appeal since back in the day. Have we forgotten **JOSEPHINE BAKER**? **LENA HORNE**? **DOROTHY DANDRIDGE**?

The fact is, yes, Janet has managed to shock us. But we believe her. Madonna couldn't convincingly shock us if she appeared fully nude and spread eagle on the pages of a porno magazine. Oops! She's already done that. Correction: Madonna can no longer shock us, and therefore, her primary talent is of no use. She is dismissed.

Janet Jackson, on the other hand, can move to the front of the classroom and teach us all a lesson or two. This young, Black woman has survived insurmountable odds—growing up in one of the most publicly dysfunctional families, a failed marriage to an alleged drug addict and two albums worth of searching for her true musical roots (before hooking up with **JAM** and **LEWIS**). And somehow she has managed to come out on top and only mildly scathed.

At the age of eighteen, Miss Janet took the first step toward her independence singing about being "in control", but as the youngest member of the media-luring Jackson clan, could she really convince us? No. Now, eight years and thirty million albums later, we can finally take her word for it.

fiction by Gregory Eugene Travis

Le Gallerie was, as always, threatening to brim over with attitude, conversation, artists, artifice and, as on this rare occasion, art. John stood between the topic of much conversation and the catered spread. The piece of art in question was a massive photograph whose discomforting and titillating apex was of one Black man's dangling genitalia and his lover's lips. Complicating the issue was the fact that the photo had been blown up to such proportions as to consume an entire 70 millimeter-sized canvas. Not only did it dwarf the artist's other pieces, but the obscenely titan, Black lacquer shiny dick was ruining everybody's concentration and focus upon the true nature and meaning of ART!

Unfortunately, neither the artist nor the gallery were federally funded or the photographer would have been out on his keister by dawn, his omnipresent and omniscient cock tossed after.

Now, having touched down from Japan a scant two hours ago and sleeping through meals on both flights, John could have cared less than a fuck about any of the above. But, after inhaling as much of the buffet as possible in thirty minutes, he turned all attention to the photograph which might give him the photo opportunity that his agents and manager drooled about from half a world away. Sometimes John hated being a model.

Still, when he looked up, the photograph moved him like nothing he'd ever seen in his life. In it, one Black man sat in a steaming bath tub, his face glowing with an incandescent love. Above, his lover gingerly tested the piping pool, one hand lightly resting on his lover's shoulder for balance.

The standing man had a strong, though not particularly well-defined physique and his cheekbones were average, John observed. Far from perfect, this man would never wear a major designer's underwear, John smirked.

Even so, his smiling lover looked up from the mist like a water-lily, awaiting and anticipating his gardener's descent.

John flipped through a rolodex of lover memories. Each snapshot's star had the same face.

Brent, who's tongue was quicksilver, whose hands were sweet, sweet velvet, whose soul was filled with broken glass.

Brent. The man-of-the-moment wonderland, replete with a phone for all four bathrooms, had multicolored beepers—one for each and every mood. A man so sooty black that John had literally gasped when they met after a fashion show in London. A split second later, he fell in love with the only man who he'd considered better looking than himself and as intellectually challenging.

They'd spent their first weeks together kissing and sharing dreams beneath a full moon, flying over two continents for a very sleepy breakfast with Brent's parents in their summer home in his native Kenya. Over three days' rendezvous they'd made love on or over at least six countries, two oceans and in roughly twenty- three linguistic territories.

Brent was the possessor of a trouser snake who's versatility and imagination could have seduced Medusa bald. He was also a lying nymphomaniac whose sero-positive status he'd neglected to mention until well near the end of their first year together.

"I mean, you wouldn't let me fuck you without a rubber, anyway. Would you?" Brent spat when confronted. "I didn't think it was all that big a deal. Is it?"

During John's dazed and confused silence, Brent had sprinted away, into the very club where they had met a year before. Of course, it was precisely there that they met again a few weeks later at the Lonely Hour. John bought Brent a drink and they talked about what was wrong with their relationship a while before Brent smiled That Smile and John asked if they couldn't work things out because he knew they truly loved each other.

"Well, I met somebody," Brent said, grinning confidentially. "We got together a couple of weeks ago. We just hit it off. I mean, I think he's positive, too. We just talked a lot and we had so much in common and I meant to tell you but I didn't want to hurt you 'cause I love you; I really really do but I'm not in love with you—even though I said so but we were having sex then and you know how that goes, but what I meant was that I really liked having sex with you, man, but I didn't really mean to move in with you as a lover. I thought we were just friends." Then he grinned again, like someone seriously in love.

But back to reality; Laying his plate on the table draped in real, fine linen, John took a deep breath. After a minute, the fist in his chest flexed.

"So what do you think?"

"Well," John said, without turning to the beautifully husky voice behind him, so full of mocha and smoke and so magnificently demanding over his shoulder. "It's interesting." Then... casually politely, but ready for the intimacy of self-deprecating humor; ready to try to be naturally graceful yet charmingly klutzy while blessed with natural wit and strength... John turned and smiled his most seductively down at the homeliest man he thought he had ever seen in his life.

The be-speckled, glum-looking little man's magnified eyes nailed him to the spot like a wrong way driver's high-beams screaming down Interstate Nine on a pitch black night. John continued to grin, partly to be nice, partly in horror. He tried to grin a lethal mixture of Hot Shot and Raid.

The other man seemed un-phased, warmly returning his smile. Tufts of white at the temples of an otherwise jet black mane pulled back into the strictest of ponytails and perfectly matching black turtleneck, black denims and black flip flops on a scrawny little body.

"Actually," John answered slowly, composure regained, "I'm not interested."

"Oh," said The Bug, swinging his headlights up to the photograph. "Why?"

"Sorry, but you're not quite my type." John tossed his head and an errant dred hopped back into line with its kin.

"I meant the photograph, you arrogant little fucker. You been standing by it for about a half hour," the Bug drawled through a Southern Comfort smile without the slightest hint of malice in his voice.

"Oh," John felt his face flush, "I'm just standing here because the food's nearby and I'm starving." They both looked at the lovers on the wall. "Sorry, I thought you were trolling me."

"I am," said The Bug. "But, I was also asking your opinion."

"Junk," John lied. "The artist should get into analysis."

"Why do you call it junk? Don't you think it's a very intimate and sensitively photographed portrait of two men very much in love?" The bug smiled, I-9-ing him.

"It's contrived," John muttered. "How the hell could you get up that close to such a intimate moment and take that kind of picture? I mean, the photographer had to be standing right there. It's silly and unrealistic." How odd. The Bug's bottom lip was very round and full. John worried a grape off its vine from one of the over-full platters on the table and popped it in his mouth. Two or three slightly bitter seeds clunched between his teeth and mingled with the orb's sweet, tart meat. He stifled a surprised gasp and looked back up at the photo.

"Well, it might be argued," said the Bug," that all of romance is silly and unrealistic. That people do the most idiotic things under the influence of love."

"Not me." This is silly, John thought. I am standing here arguing with this pathetic little insect with all these gorgeous guys around.

"You've never walked home at three AM, savoring the thrill of going down on your lover on a rooftop or in a shadowy knoll or in the candle lit depths of your couch just for insurance's sake? Just to make sure he'll stay?"

"Yeah, but is that love?" John smirked again. He liked to smirk. It gave him comfort. He also broke a mild sweat.

"Love? No. But it is an opportunity to respect the potential for love, don't you think?"

"You mean the potential for a good fuck, yeah?"

"No. I think I mean the potential for... hope." They looked at the grotesquely over-sized lovers who towered above them. "Why are you so passionate about this photo?"

John shrugged, "I hate it."

"Oh?"

"I guess I find it offensive, I don't know." John munched on another grape (this one barren of seeds) and shrugged, "I mean, his dick is so close to the other guy's mouth."

"Fellatio is bad?"

"Well, there's nothing wrong with it! Head, I mean. I just don't like having it shoved onto my plate!"

"Well there are other photos here." The Bug apologized softly, "They might be more to your tastes."

John realized his volume had risen to just shy of a shout, so he almost whispered, "It's right by the spread!"

"Maybe that's part of the performance of the piece." The Bug smiled and gave a little shrug. "So you think the artist ought to get into analysis?"

"That, or a talkshow. They're both user friendly." John's grin had crushed his smirk. "Then again, I think that analysis is a good thing that gets abused too much by people who don't think they can function without an audience for their petty grievances. It's kind of sad to watch people who are basically stable, pay for companionship."

"So, how often do you see your analyst?"

"Twice a week. Pig," John giggled. "You?"

"Actually, I love my selfish idiot friends just as they are."

"My name is John." They shook hands too, too briefly.

"Garvin." Both men stared again, at the photo.

Cafe Liemert was bustling with activity when Garvin Arthur Stewarts and John arrived. A few of its patrons made their attendance to Garvin's exhibit known by blowing kisses to Garvin & Friend as the men entered.

Seated, Garvin peered back and forth at the chicken dish and the lamb. Chick or lamb?- take the damned glasses off! Right, and look like a mole squinting into the noon day sun. Why bother when my pretty companion will dash off into the midnight sun, full of sushi and promises to call. Why bother?

Hush! Garvin, hush. This is an honest barter. A meal from a homely, up-and-coming artist, in exchange for the illusion of public intimacy with the shatteringly beautiful man. Fair enough. Hell, integrity had never kissed him goodnight or smiled from eyes brimming over with love and pride. His fucking integrity had never even gotten him laid. He looked up at the magnificent and sad-eyed man seated before him and smiled a little prayer to the muses of Hope and Equity.

Who knows, though? Life's fairness, he mused, never arrives neatly wrapped in tinsel and ribbon. Instead, its gift is the very fact that the things we need most are always hidden and scattered. This is what makes a gift sacred. Hell, look who he was eating with—-a real celebrity!

He ran his fingers around the mouth of his water glass and watched the back of John's menu as it slowly came back down.

"I'm ready," John said. Garvin smiled running his fingertips down the water glass's bell and through its dew until the tip of each digit glistened with droplets in the soft candlelight.

"Okay," Garvin said, then flicked his wet fingers at John who winced then, miraculously.... smiled.

And Garvin winced too, when the staccato beads shot form John's fingers, spotting his cheeks and brow. Ah, found gifts...

"John," Garvin began, "May I be graphic about how I feel right now? Well, I'm glad I didn't ask to photograph you. I've always been more than a little embarrassed when my friends used that ploy and felt stupid when I used it myself and got turned down which is most of the time..." John simply nodded and looked into his water glass. After a silence, Garvin asked, "Is it the food or the ambiance? If you want something else, some other kind of food... I mean, whatever you want..."

"No, this is fine," John said softly.

"Well, you've been so quiet. I thought maybe you didn't like the food here and you were just being nice."

"Me? Nice?" John said, chuckling. "You really don't know me, yet."

"Maybe you over-analyze yourself."

"Maybe you should have told me that you were the artist on display, Garvin,"

"My work was on display." Garvin, feeling himself shrinking rapidly, bucked up in the seat and leaned forward until John met his eyes. "John, I wanted your unbiased opinion. And, boy did you give it to me." Garvin laughed out loud.

"I lied." He didn't laugh.

"So I guess we're even, then?"

"Yes, of course," John said, lifting the top off of a dinner roll. It's steam curled up, caressing his chin. "Would you like to fuck over your pretty little bimbo before or after the main course?"

"I would like to keep the illusion—for just a moment longer— that you like me. To be honest, I would do anything to make you genuinely smile again like you did before," Garvin said in that totally unbitchy tone that was really beginning to piss John off. "I guess I lied because... see, when people know you're the artist and that you're trying to tell the truth, they want to help you tell it. You were so nasty, I just figured that you were telling me how you really felt. It was great. I'm sorry."

"I guess I can see that," John said as Garvin pondered a spoon, turning it over and over under furrowed brow. John sighed. "Thanks for telling the truth, but frankly, I prefer lies. The truth can be so messy, you know? But, lying is so full of possibilities. I'm probably lying now. Isn't it rich?"

"Funny," Garvin said, flicking another round of droplets at his friend, "you don't sound like it."

"But that's the beauty of lying," John countered, licking a droplet off his lower lip, "It sounds good enough to be true because you're only trying to make people happy. So, maybe, in a way it's the kinder thing to do."

"Well," said Garvin, "It makes me happy to be here with you."

"Yeah, I know." Over the ensuing silence, Garvin watched the candlelight's flicker through John's dredlocks, casting shadows on the model's sculpted cheekbones and deep-set, sad and haunting eyes.

"What are you thinking, John?"

"Nothing. I'm just pondering the qualities of lying and mercy and happiness. I'm looking for the golden thread, I guess."

"Liar. You were thinking that I look like a bug and wondering why you want to kiss me and what the hell was wrong with you, yeah?" Garvin stared gravely until his companion grinned. "You had that "I wish I had a giant rolled up newspaper" look on your face. That's what you were thinking, wasn't it?"

"Well, that too," John blushed and bit his bottom lip, stifling a giggle. "Actually, I was wondering why you wouldn't just scurry up the wall and be done with it."

"I'm more of an under-the-sofa kind of guy, if you know what I mean."

John laid his hand on the table midway and held up a forefinger tentatively, gingerly and let it waver a bit as if smelling the air. Garvin came center and lifted one digit too, listening, connecting, joining the distance until: Hello.

"If you wouldn't mind, Mr. Stewarts," John smiled into his butter knife, "I'd like to wine you after the dine-you part tonight. That is, if you wouldn't mind my four bare walls."

Garvin glanced over John's shoulder at the pointless, gaudy coffee-house art and it occurred to him that he had never been anywhere where the walls had been left raw, bare. And it occurred to him that this could be blindingly beautiful.

Later, in the purest hours of the morning, before the dew rises or the stars fall and high above the city's clamor, Garvin sat looking up at John.

"May I...?" John asked, resting one hand on Garvin's shoulder, "... may I lie to you, Garvin? I- I feel that I'm at my best when I'm lying. At least for now. I mean that in all sincerity. May I?"

"I'd be honored."

"I never want to see you again. I hated this evening," John beamed like a brand new penny, "I think your art is horrid. It always will be. You're the most gorgeous man I've ever met, yet I find you strangely repulsive. I could never love you. Never."

"Can I call you in the morning?"

"The number I gave you is wrong." John looked down at Garvin and marveled at the way his eyes crinkled at the corners and two deep crevices appeared on either side of his mouth when he laughed real hard. And as John dipped one toe cautiously into the piping hot bath, Garvin looked down bashfully at the water, even as he held the model's waist, steadying him. John stood before him a moment and got used to the water. "So I guess it's your turn."

"The truth? Well..." First Garvin caressed John's ankles, then bathed his hairy calves, then he reached up and kissed the tip of John's sex.

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BIG GOOD LOOKING WHITE BODY-BUILDER/MUSICIAN seeks relationship with big Black man who likes being on top. I'm 6 ft. 210 lbs., hairy, nice smooth bubble butt. You be muscular/ chunky/ thick/ masculine. Please call. 1011

TAKE ME. BG MASCULINE BOTTOM, good-looking, 28, 5'9", 155 lbs., looking for good-looking, aggressive Top, 25-35, at least 5' 9", hung thick and long and knows what to do with it. 2027

HANDSOME AND ROMANTIC BROTHER, 30 year old, 6 ft., 165 lbs., HIV, seeking romantic Brother in his 30's for candle light dinners, theatre, quiet evenings of invigorating conversation and much much more. 2028

HI, MY NAME IS KELLY. I'm an attractive Black male with a big dick who loves to fuck and suck. ISO attractive males of any race into long sessions of hot sex. 1026

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WM, 48, DISTINGUISHED LOOKING, versatile professional, seeking honest, sincere, super hung, versatile, short (5'3" and under) BM for fun and possible relationship. Allen. 1002

GBM, 47, wants to meet 40+ GBM. Serious only. 1061

HOT BGM wants to make love to you all night long. I'm 31 y.o., 6'2", 200 lbs, hung 9" and cut. You be 21-35, hot all night bottom for good times and long rides. Call me. 2032

DREAM LOVER, Bi Black male, 6'1", 220 lbs, passionate. Needs minority to rescue him from lifeless lovers for friendship, movies and outings. You be HIV-, STD-, honest and funny. Los Angeles area. 1026

MASCULINE 39 Y.O. SEEKS SIMILAR. Blk, 200 lbs., 6 Ft., moustache, ponytail, into gym, kids, love, friendship, sex, feet, film and self-knowledge. Be real, honest, masculine and open—and I could be had. HIV, white, Hispanic okay. 1024

IN SEARCH OF MY EQUAL 28 year old GBM, 6' 160 lbs., attractive, intelligent, professional, seeks GBM in touch with himself, attractive, intelligent, professional, 5' 9" or taller. weight proportional, between 25 and 40. Serious callers call Mike. 2047

I LOVE A BIG STICK OF DARK/LIGHT CHOCOLATE. Me: Hot Latino bottom ready to play. 35 years old, 5'6", 140 lbs. You: In-shape very masculine Top. Looks/Age not important. Big cock and no B.S. attitude are. 1030

BLACK MAN, 33 years old, 5'9", 160 lbs, work out, love people and life, HIV-. 1063

LATIN OR ISLAMIC TOP MAN WANTED by Black doctor, 5' 10", 140 lbs, for dating and romance. 1032

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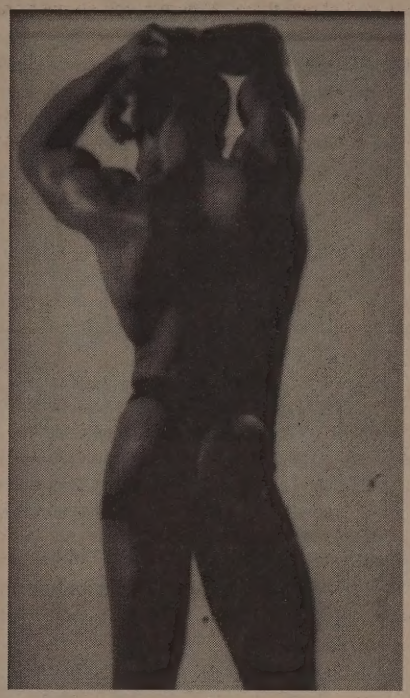
ATTRACTIVE, BGM PROFESSIONAL. 40, 5'9", 145 lbs., HIV-, seeks attractive, articulate, classy, medium-built, openly gay brother who is HIV-, unpretentious, non-materialistic, sensitive and caring, into literature, the arts, political and cultural awareness and possesses a positive attitude and a sense of humor; a non-smoker and light drinker or non-drinker, for stimulating conversation, gentle romance and a possible relationship. Age is not important. 1033

BM LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OVER 50 for friendship & more. No drugs, straight acting, loves travel and workouts in the gym. Be sincere. 2038

YOUNG ATTRACTIVE GBM 23 5'8", 160 lbs., brown skin ISO good looking, affectionate, yet very aggressive top who knows what he wants. Must be 25-32, healthy and willing to travel to the greater Los Angeles area. Fems need not apply. 2039

FANTASTIC IMPORT Very attractive European, smart, 34, 5' 10", muscular, 180

SBC MAN-MEET



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lbs., discreet, seeks tall, intelligent, very muscular, massive black bodybuilder, over 220 lbs., for friend.
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BLACK MEN ONLY. I am 5'7", 198 lbs and full of love. I need a clean, no smoking, no drugs, masculine proud black man. Someone that will treat me right, someone that will make love to me as a man and as a friend. I like music, the outdoors and people. If you are well hung that's a +++. If you are 50% top and 50% bottom, I have 8 inches of hard meat for you. Safe is the only way. 1004

5'9", 175 LBS. AND AVAILABLE. I enjoy physical activities, movies, music and quiet moments. Presently studying at the University, but would like to spend quality time with someone special. You the same; let's discuss the matter. No phonies need inquire. 1021

LIGHT SKIN BLACK looking for muscular black men. 1013

28 Y.O. GBM, 6' 160 LBS. attractive, intelligent, professional, seeks GBM in touch with himself, attractive, intelligent, professional, 5' 9" or taller, weight proportional, between 25 and 40. Serious callers, call Mike. 2047

HANDSOME BLACK MALE, 29, 6' 2" seeks

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politically minded soul mate. I'm out-going, enjoy doing things without advance notice. If you're the same, leave a message. 2026

21 YEAR OLD LATIN MALE into strong, muscular, tall masculine, Black man interested in sharing your time with a real person. I'm into movies, walks, talks and dancing. If this interests you, give me a call. 1024

HOT BLACK MALE BOTTOM 5'9", 34 y.o., 150 lbs, in search of hot masculine top who is well endowed, 18-40 something for...(+). 1022

LOOKING FOR GOOD HEAD? 42 year old black male, 5'6", 150 lbs., passable looks, F/A; No/GR. U B black, oriental, Hispanic, No. African, Puerto Rican, Egyptian, any man of color. Over 6' tall or under 5' short & uncut a +. Cock size unimportant. U must B clean, no drugs, pros, fats or fems. My place or? Days & some evenings. Very, very discreet—-UB2. U won't B sorry. L.A. area. No games, no head trips. I'M GOOD. 1012

BOTTOM LOVES TOP. Black Men only. Must not use drugs or alcohol. Hung is a +++. Me: 10" x 5". If you love having fun and being intimate, please call. 4016

BGM. Let me hold you tight, if only for one night. Let me keep you near, to ease away your fear. I won't tell a soul, and no one has to know. 2025

BLACK ATTRACTIVE PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGIATE STUDENT requests:rich (has money), physically fit (works out), 6 feet or taller, 25 or older black professional men for friendships or more. You won't be disappointed. Not looking for a sugar daddy, but someone to spend quality time with. Xaveyer. 1003

LOOKING FOR AN 18 YEAR OLD GM TO TRAVEL WITH ME either a few hours at a time or a few days. Friendship first ad then let's see what develops. I have the car. Just someone to keep me company. I like car shows, walks on the beach, etc. Please call. 2020

HDSM BLK ROMANTIC seeks same. 6'2", 175 lbs., 35, HIV+, N2 music, dance, art, positivity, love. ISO in shape brother with mind to match. Come get this. Sexy stud with slow hand call now. All serious calls answered. 1000

AN ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS ADVOCATE. Down to earth, Southern, open minded, healthy HIV+ BGM, enjoys dancing, sports, outdoors, theatre, films, etc. Afrocentric, volunteer for different causes, believes in God. Enjoys meeting BGM w/similar or different interests for friendship or more. If you are true to self and not afraid to share your feelings, If you are a sincere, respectful, masculine brother, your response is appreciated. 4017

STUDENT SEEKS MAN, student, 23, enjoys working out, movies, video games and reading seeks cute guy, 18-26, with poetically progressive values for friendship. 1041

BIG CORN FED FARM BOY WANTED. I'm 6' 175 lbs., attractive 28 year old professional BGM. Into kissing, volley ball, skating, lazy Sunday mornings, eating and sensual encounters with the person who makes my toes curl. If you're over 30, mentally and physically together, fun to be around and think you can handle my spontaneous and intellectually challenging personality, give me a call. 1042

SLEEPLESS IN L.A. 42 year old African American man, 5'7", 150 lbs. called handsome, who feels very comfortable with the way I look. I seek friendship and dating with HIV negative, non-smoking gay man of any race who enjoys sports, athletics and the finer things in life. I'm waiting and sleepless. 1043

FUCK BUDDY WANTED I'm a black male, 23, slim, 155 lbs., nice swimmer's body, nicely hung, sexy, seeking men 20-30, nicely hung himself, 9" or more an A+, confident in himself, not too fem, who wants to have good sex and connect with me. 1046

AFRICAN AMERICAN. I'm looking for an African American male 25-35, with a positive attitude. HIV status unimportant. I'd like to get to know you and you get to know me, have a nice romantic dinner and do a lot of talking. I'm very attractive. 5' 5", 150 lbs. and I love picnics, jogging, boating and reading. I hope we can really make wild passionate love when we get to know each other. 1051

SEXY BLACK SOPHISTICATE. Tall masculine man, 29, looking for large hung top who like to give deep sensual back massages to a Black Adonis. Be hot and non-smoker. 2045

HORNY YOUNG MAN. Black male, 31, 5'11, 175 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, smooth body. Leave the rest to your imagination. Into romance, good times and fun. Why don't you leave me a message. 3000

WANTED: Good looking, tall, lean younger male, any race for friendship/relationship. Must be top. Me: attractive BM 64 5'11, 159 lbs. 1037

WANTED ONE GOOD BLACK MAN. GBM, 29, 5'8, 155 lbs, handsome, good personality, sexy, looking for GBM, 30-40 who enjoys the outdoors, theater, dancing, fun, safe hot times then cuddling on the sofa. 1051

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HANDSOME ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE MAN. Black male, 5'9, looking for serious minded Black or Asian male with nice body who is into making love, really nice, warm and passionate love. 4021

VERY CUTE AND SEXY. I'm a mature 22 year old Black male, 5'5, 150 lbs, HIV-, great kisser, well endowed, mostly top but willing to be versatile, beautiful legs and an incredible butt, enjoy exercise and active lifestyle. 21-28 non-smoker. Please give me a call. 3012

HANDSOME CARAMEL BLACK MALE. 27, 5'8, 190 lbs, HIV- with football build. Looking for a masculine Black male, spontaneous between 25-35 for long term relationship. I like movies, long drives, dancing, Reno, bowling, conversation, fun adventure. Please, no games. Serious only reply. 1052

ROMANTIC LATINO BOTTOM. 5'4, 130 lbs, short black hair, brown eyes, mustache, fair, complected, hairy chest, in good shape looking to meet a strictly top, of any race, for dating, getting to know each other and eventually a relationship. I'm 40 but look much younger. 1053

CUBAN WANTED BY BLACK MAN. Looking for Cuban or Puerto Rican who is very well hung and eat. Someone who is looking for a fried and know how to treat a person. I'm 37 and want someone 18-37. Give me a call. 1057

AGGRESSIVE BOTTOM NEEDS AGGRESSIVE TOP. Hot aggressive bottom looking for a nasty top. 6', 160 lbs, hard body, good looking, 7-1/2 cut cock, nice hard butt, looking to get into some nice kinky sex. Give me a call. 1053

BLACK MALE. I'm 5'11, a young 41 who loves to get his cock sucked. I'm versatile and want to have a good time. 1057

LOVE TO MAKE LOVE TO GBM. I'm looking for a GBM who loves touching an older GBM's body. I'm 5'8, 160 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, 7", healthy and clean. 1058

WELL HUNG BLACK GUY WANTS SEX. 27, BM looking to meet couples male/female or male/male for lots of sex. I'm hung thick and versatile. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. 4024

HOT YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN TOP. What's up? 22 year old top. I love hot sessions with African Americans, or Latino men, especially Puerto Rican men. Leave a message in my box so we can hook up. 3014

LET'S CUM TOGETHER. Looking for hot fuck buddy. I'm a Latino, 25, willing to go the extra mile for that rock hard guy. I'm slim, into jacking off and whatever turns you on. You be healthy, in your 20s, race not important but be willing to go through hot greasy sessions with the best sex you ever had. 3002

DARE TO BARE
WANTED:
HOT BLACK GUYS, 18-35, WITH WELL-DEFINED BODIES, WANDTED FOR MAGAZINE LAYOUTS AND VIDEO WORK. CALL JAMOO. 1064

BLACK MEN ONLY. If you like to get down, get busy, get it on with a fine BM, I'm the one. I am 29, 6', 160 lbs, shaved head, you be 25-40, masculine and like being on top, loving great head, drop what your doing and call me. 3015

ROMANTIC GENTLEMEN ONLY. Attractive BM seeks attractive, sincere, straight acting gentleman between 25-40. I enjoy quality time along with passionate safe sex. Call if you fit this description. 1058

BLACK MALE. 30, Smooth, clean shaven, can be top or bottom, 8". Give me a call. 3003

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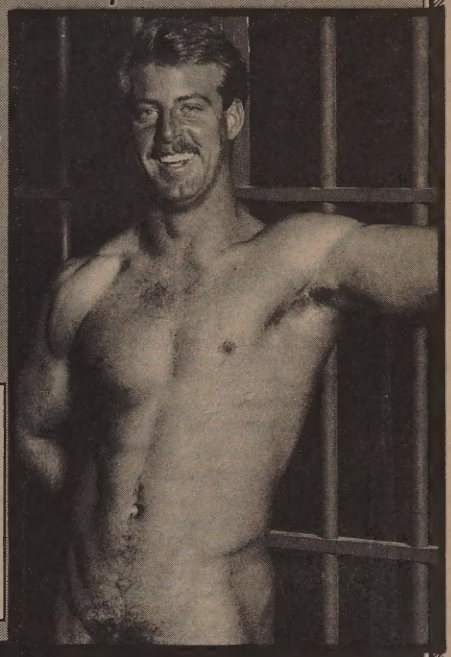

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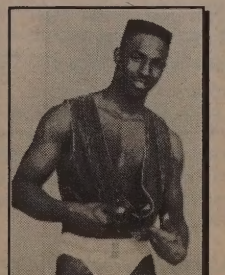

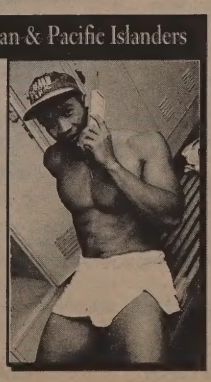

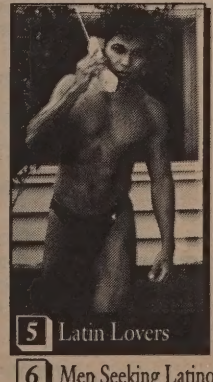

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SBC PERSONALS

MAY 1994 Volume 3 Issue 3

CALIFORNIA

BLACK MALE, 23, EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE 5'6", 140 lbs. Very proportioned with a very smooth tight nice build. With the most beautiful eyes. Seeks very masculine, attractive, well-built and healthy body builder type man from 27-45. Eventually moving to Southern California. You will not be disappointed. Willing to trade photos. Answering service: 408.249.4225.

GBM, 47, wants to meet 40+ GBM. Serious only. Answer machine: 619.324.5450.

BLACK MAN, 33 years old, 5'9", 160 lbs, work out, love people and life, HIV-. Send photo to 540 52nd St. #1 Oakland, CA. 94609.

MASCULINE 39 Y.O. seeks similar, BLK, 200 lb, 6 ft., moustache, ponytail, into gym, kids, love, friendship, sex, feet, film ad self-knowledge. Be real, honest, masculine ad open—and I could be had. HIV, white, Hispanic, ok. write to SBC-39 /1205 4th Avenue/ Los Angeles, Ca. 90019.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BLACK BI MALE, 6'3 1/2", 215 lbs., attractive, masculine, seeks Black young servicemen (ex-Marines, Army, Navy guys) and young men 25-35 for friendship; no fats, no fems. Box 4591, Washington, D.C. 20017

BLACK WRESTLER LOOKING for other masculine guys into hot and sweaty wrestling action in swim trunks, jocks, etc. Long, man to man, erotic wrestling action and oil wrestling. Box 91428, Washington, D.C. 20090-1428 or call 202.291.0907.

A MAN'S MAN/BGM SPORTSMAN: 6 ft., 220 lbs., professional with ball player's body. Masculine man who also reads and cuddles. ISO 6 ft. BGM who is a weekend roughneck but a weekday corporate jock. Let's make a spiritual journey. Leave message for "BB" (Body and Brains) 202.543.5887.

ATHLETIC WORKAHOLIC 29, 5 ft. 10", 180 lbs., looking for reason to leave the office early. Need articulate homeboy who is prof. & physically fit. 27-38. Leave message for Dan 202.543.5887.

POUND OF FLESH AUCTION! Finest guys alive needed for free restaurant bruncheon. Looking for superb examples of best men each age: 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's. Please be fine! Ric: 202.543.5887.

MICHIGAN

BGM, 5' 11", 185, very attractive, muscular, enjoys communicating, eating, music, sports and working out. Seeks BGM muscular with same interests. No fats, fems need apply. K. Anderson, Box 14626, Detroit, MI 48214.

NEW YORK

ATHLETIC, BGM JAMAICAN, intelligent, down to earth, top, 30, 5' 9", 140 lbs., seeks a no B/S, mature, compatible, in-shape, healthy, conscientious brother. Box 1447, New York, NY 10113-1447.

NORTH CAROLINA

IN SEARCH OF a muscular Black man for friend/lover. GWM, 40, 5' 10", 175, bearded/balding, "bearish", works out regularly, into bodybuilders. POB 25261. Raleigh, NC 27611.

OHIO

BLACK MALE, 40, 6', 175 lbs., muscular, athletic, healthy and inexperienced. Seeks masculine top stud for mutually satisfying meetings, possible relationship. Box 94189, Cleveland, OH 44114.

ATTRACTIVE BM, 25, seeks gay lover. DeWayne Guynes, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699.

TEXAS

GBM 29, 6'1", 175 lbs., very attractive, sincere and honest, looking for someone beautiful on the inside as well as the outside. I want a best friend, someone to lift me when I am down and share similar interest in the arts. Seeking Latin, Black or mixed races. 5542 Elmspring, Houston, Tx. 77048

GBM, 36, 5'9", 130 lbs., professional, attractive, intelligent, versatile, very affectionate and passionate. Interested in music, theater, art, movies, travel, sports, cooking, intimate evenings. Seeks GBM, well-groomed, physically fit, honest, versatile, fun, friend/lover who enjoys living life to the fullest, believes and has faith in God. Robert. 4517 Edfield Street, Houston, Tx. 77051

GOOD LOOKING GBM, 24, 5'10", 150 lbs. Very toned, professional dancer. Looking for anyone between ages 23-30. Very boyish. no fems. Respond to all, exchange photos. Alton. 2522 Vesper St. #229/ Dallas, Tx. 75215

VIRGINIA

ATTRACTIVE GBM ARTIST, 29, 5' 8", 145, HIV+, in good health. Seeks attractive, well built masculine homeboy of black or white color to share interest in music, weight lifting, workouts, theater, African art, sports, cooking, reading, intimate evenings and more serious about life and living it with an open mind and have hopes of stimulating relationship. Then send photo and letter to Box 3216, Reston, VA 22090.

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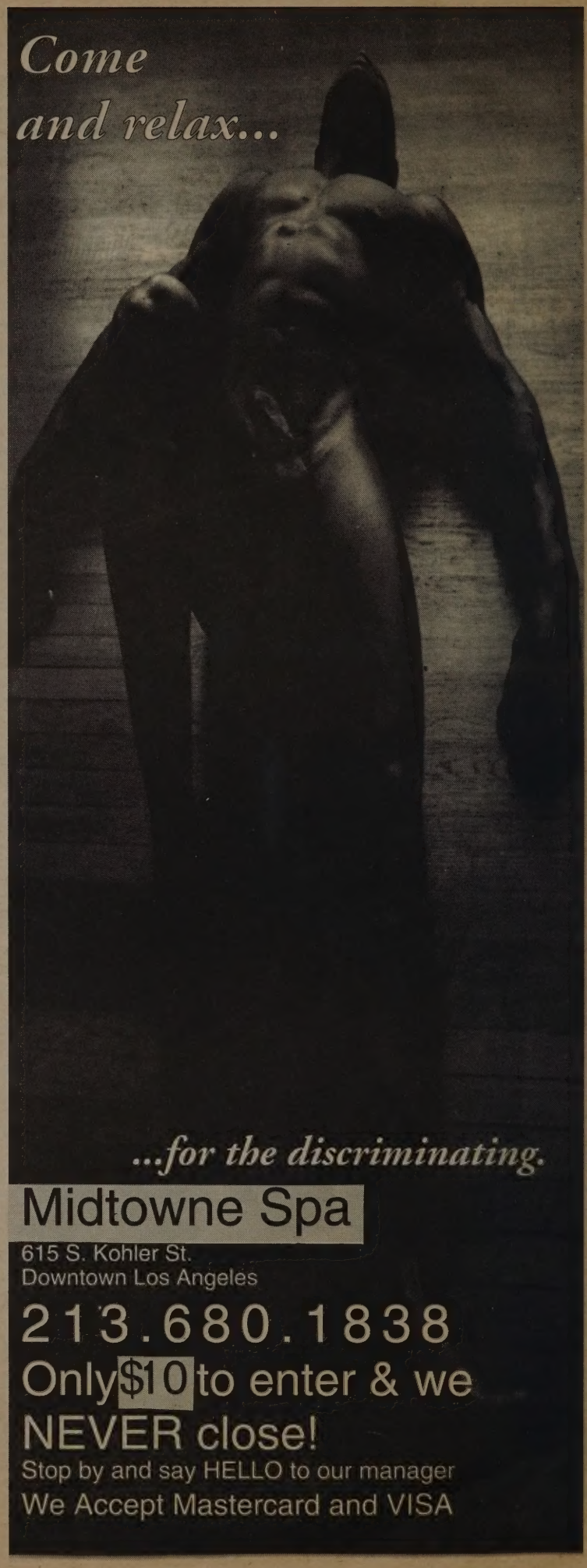
WASHINGTON STATE

GOOD LOOKING GBM, 31, 5' 10", 165 lbs., very masculine, professional, traveled, fit homeboy-ish, well endowed, part Latin, seeks built, straight appearing, hot-looking young macho Hispanic, ethnic or BM. Relationship or friend. Find love, get nasty, romp or hang. Photo for reply. Box 78151, Seattle, WA 98178.



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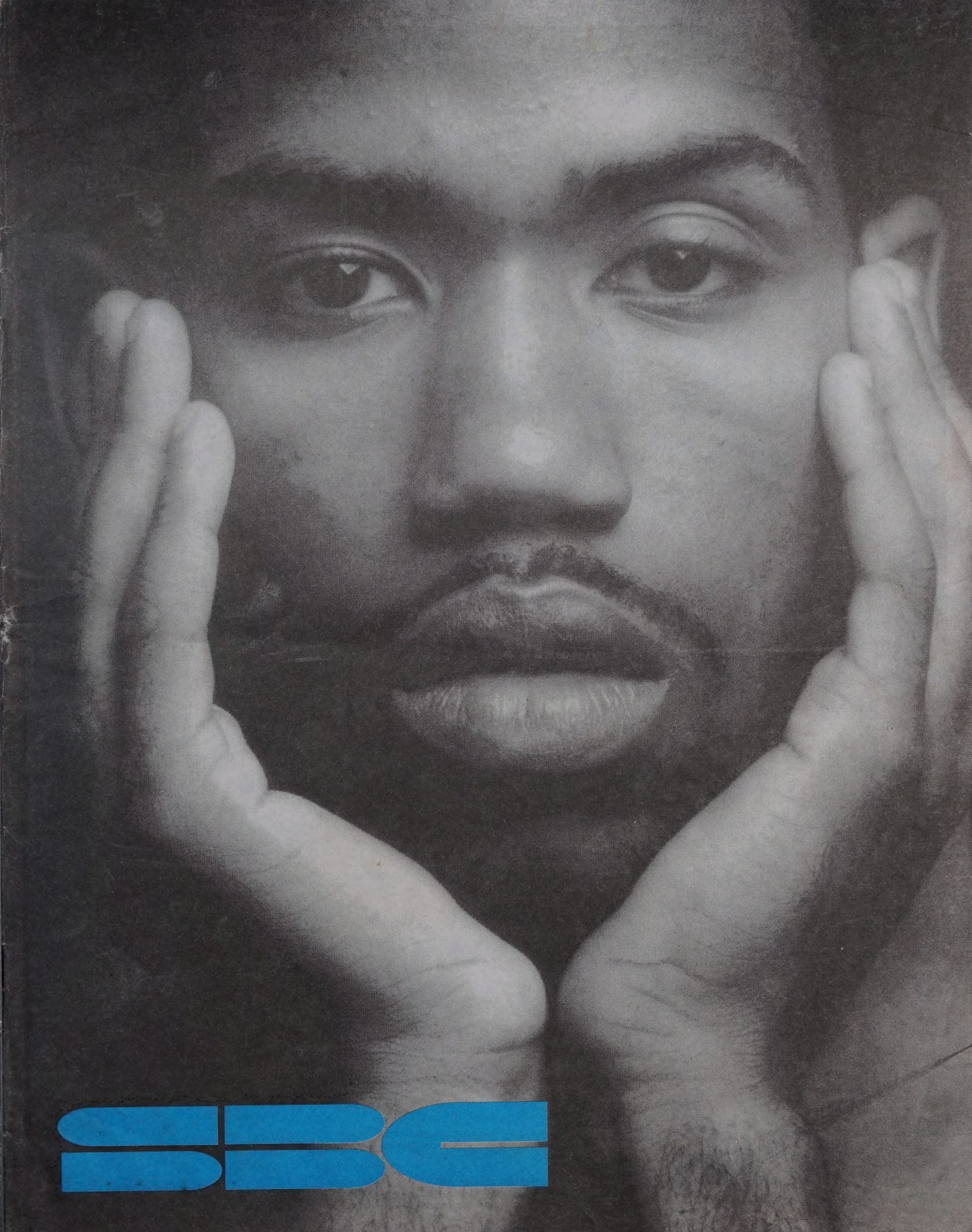
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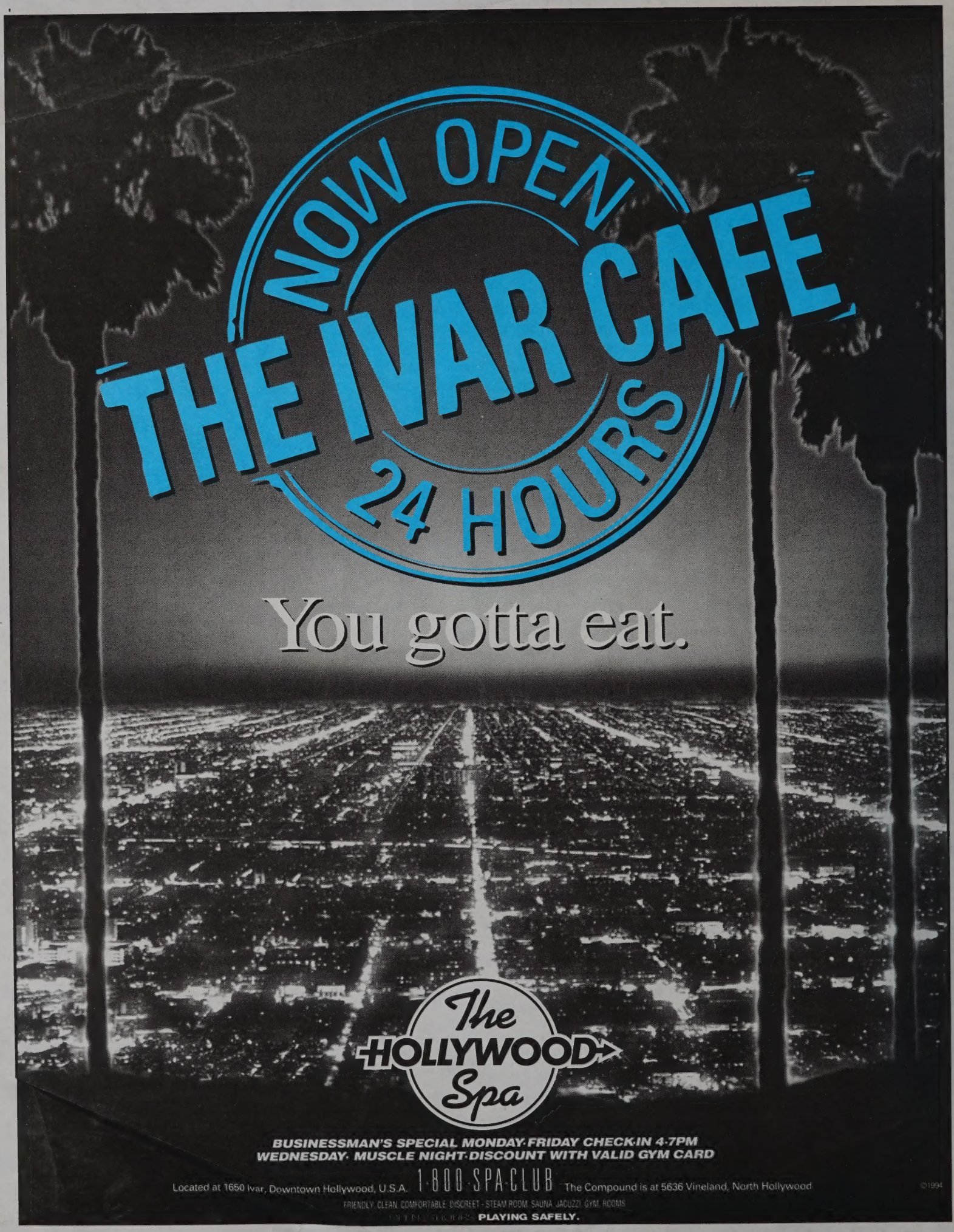
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EDITOR'S PEN

Over the Labor day weekend, my lover Peter and I were invited to Atlanta by another couple, our good friends Chip and Aries. It was a most restful and pensive weekend of fellowship, reflection, brotherhood and fun.

We walked the country roads of Conley, read the works of Tina McElroy Ansa and an advance copy of James Earl Hardy's ground-breaking black-on-black-brother-to-brother love story "B-Boy Blues" (Hallelujah!), went white-water rafting on the Chatahoochie River and visited the Martin Luther King Memorial, a most moving experience.

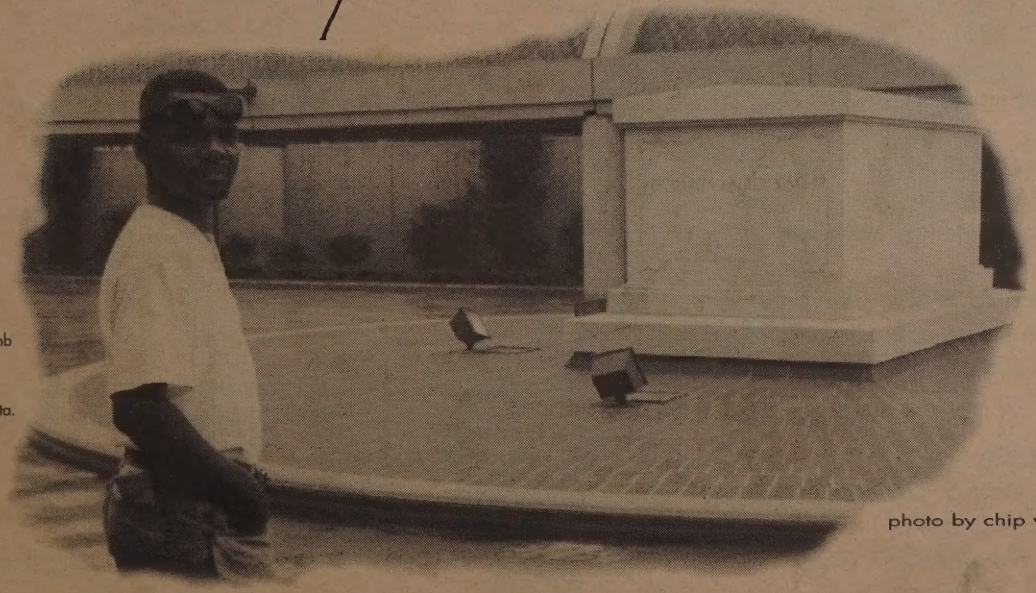
We also visited The Underground, an eclectic and popular subterranean shopping mall in downtown Atlanta where a beautiful sister was selling many wonderful afrocentric trinkets and artifacts. Among them was a scroll with the statements of an unknown author. And I quote:

Life is a challenge...meet it.
Life is a gift...accept it.
Life is an adventure...dare it.
Life is a sorrow...overcome it.
Life is a tragedy...face it.
Life is a duty...perform it.
Life is a game...play it.
Life is a mystery...unfold it.
Life is a song...sing it.
Life is an opportunity...take it.
Life is a journey...complete it.
Life is a promise...fulfill it.
Life is a beauty...praise it.
Life is a struggle...fight it.
Life is a goal...achieve it.
Life is a puzzle...solve it.

The author may be listed as unknown. But we all know who the author is. The author is you.

So listen. Listen to yourself. Your wonderful, wonderful self. Listen to the best. And read your poem again. And again. And again. And again. And again...

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY



SBC at Martin Luther King's tomb at the King Memorial, Atlanta.

photo by chip williford

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photo by bob stickel, a.w.a.

SBC

For The Afrocentric Homosexual Man

VOLUME THREE ISSUE EIGHT OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1994

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLACK GAY MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 21-23 IN THE ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

Los Angeles, Ca.—The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum cordially invites brothers nationwide to attend the Fourth Annual Black Gay Men's Retreat October 21-23 at Camp Valcrest in the Angeles National Forest (elevation 6,000 ft.).

With this year's theme being AWAKENING BROTHERHOOD, the weekend celebration of life will honor our bodies, affirm our spirituality and acknowledge our mutual challenges. Cultivating relationships, safer sexual practices, man to man dating and self awareness are but a few of the topics to be discussed in a safe environment.

Camp Valcrest is nestled in a rustic environment 45 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Facilities include weatherized dormitory style cabins with showers and bathrooms, hiking trails, swimming pool, volleyball and archery courts. The camp experiences warm days and cool nights.

The weekend will be filled with affirmation workshops, campfire gatherings, dance, song and poetry, discussion groups, exercises and workouts, full meals, meditation sessions and a closing show and ceremony.

Russell Thornhill, Reverend Andrew Gaither, Donald Raglin, Tracy Kennedy, Stanley Bennett Clay, Siri, Gerald Ludd, Joei Dykes, Blaine Teamer, Gregory Victorianne, Duane Bremond, Doug Ware, James Miller, Larry Mims, Reginald Chapple, MacArthur Flournoy and Emory Smith will facilitate and/or participate in the many diverse programs slated.

The Retreat Committee, which consists of Anthony Carouthers, Reginald Chapple, MacArthur Flournoy, Donald Raglin and Gregory Victorianne, is particularly enthusiastic about the presentation of ROOTWORKS at the retreat. ROOTWORKS consists of two dynamic black gay men from Philadelphia, Hal Carter and Kevin Green, gifted in the area of massage, touch and relaxation techniques through deep breathing and the rituals of self-transformation from an Afrocentric perspective.

The cost of the retreat is $110 which covers all meals, lodging and activities. All brothers need to bring bed linens with a warm blanket, toiletries, flashlight and necessary essentials. Transportation is available upon request.

Early registration is encouraged as space is limited to 100 men and attracts gay and bisexual Brothers of African descent from around the country. For more information contact the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in Los Angeles at 213.964.7820.

GAY AND LESBIAN ADOLESCENT SOCIAL SERVICES (GLASS) TO HOLD MEETING FOR PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS OCTOBER 19 IN LONG BEACH

Long Beach, Ca.—GLASS (Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services) Foster Family Agency encourages all those who have ever thought of becoming a foster parent to attend an orientation meeting on Wednesday, October 19 at 8 PM at The Center, 2017 E. 4th St., Long Beach. Participants will learn about what it means to be a foster parent and how to become one.

GLASS-FFA is a state-licensed, non-profit foster family agency that trains and certifies qualified men and women to care for foster children ages 0-17 years who have been taken from their natural homes because of abuse or abandonment. Foster parents provide a warm, caring, stable living environment that helps children heal from the emotional wounds caused by previous destructive family relationships.

GLASS-FFA encourages all adults—regardless of sexual orientation—who have ever wanted to touch a child's life and improve a child's future, to consider becoming a foster parent. GLASS-FFA places infants, toddlers, school-age children, lesbian and gay youth, and HIV impacted youth in certified foster homes. The FFA certifies the homes, offers extensive training and support, and provides a generous monthly stipend.

Anyone who cares about young people in need of a good home, and is interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, is urged to attend the orientation meeting at The Center on October 19 or to contact one of GLASS-FFA's three offices: Long Beach, 310.435.6661; West Hollywood, 310.358.8727 or Claremont/Pomona, 909.399.9245.

RUPAUL TO APPEAR IN "THE BRADY BUNCH" MOVIE

Hollywood—RuPaul, America's reigning drag queen, has been signed by Paramount Pictures to play Jan Brady's high school guidance counselor in the upcoming "The Brady Bunch" movie.

RuPaul also just completed a role in Amblin Entertainment's upcoming drag epic "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar" opposite Wesley Snipes who himself plays the part of a drag queen.

After teaching Snipes how to wear a bustier and coaxing the middle Brady daughter through adolescence's awkward moments, the statuesque self-styled supermodel plans on starring in his own short film, "Electra Lite", which will be financed by Walt Disney Studios' discretionary fund that was set up for company executives to nurture special projects.

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS SEEKS A DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

New York—McCormack & Associates, an executive search consulting firm located in Los Angeles, has been retained by Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) of New York to identify and recruit a Director of Communications. Founded 13 years ago, GMHC is the nation's largest AIDS service provider, with a 1993-94 operating budget of $27.5 million and a professional staff of 283, supported by over 800 volunteers.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Director of Communications supervises a departmental budget of $1.4 million and a staff of 15, including six direct reports, as well as professional consultants on a project basis. Specific responsibilities include: media relations, editing GMHC publications, advising the Executive Director and Public Policy Director on the public relations impact of agency policies, providing communications technical assistance to other GMHC departments, supervising the advertising for national and international advocacy campaigns, providing communications support for special events, supervising the agency's direct mail program, and developing and implementing an employee communications program.

This position requires a communications professional with a minimum of five to seven years of experience which includes representing a not-for-profit agency dealing with policy issues, communications and press relations. Knowledge of AIDS and AIDS service organizations' policy positions on HIV disease and the people affected by it is essential. Familiarity with New York City, New York State and the federal political structure would be a plus, as would knowledge of New York and national media. A Bachelor's degree in Communications, Public Relations or a related field is required, and PRSA professional certification is desirable.

The Director of Communications will be a key advisor to senior management and, as such, will play an integral role in the continuing growth and development of this leading AIFDS service organization. Qualified candidates should contact McCormack & Associates at 213.549.9200.

PUBLISHER CLAY, ALONG WITH OTHERS, HONORED AT B.M.X 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Los Angeles—On August 12, 1994, representatives of the Black Men's Xchange's national and local headquarters, AMASSI of South Central Los Angeles, and their supporters gathered at Faith United Methodist Church in South Central L.A. to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of Black Men's Xchange.

B.M.X, a nationally focused social support and empowerment group for black men who love men, started August 4, 1989 in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. Founded and organized by Community Activist Cleo Manago, L.A.'s first chairman was Community Activist and Leader Ron Grayson. The current chairman is Arthur Crump.

Certificates of Appreciation for Dedication were awarded to James Stokes of B.M.X. National and to Steven Levy, the Co-Coordinator of B.M.X. National.

Receiving Certificates of Appreciation for Cooperation were Publishers Stanley Bennett Clay (SBC magazine), Devre Jackson (Alternatives magazine) and Jewel Thais-Williams, owner of one of the nation's oldest continuously operated dance clubs and community centers, The Catch One.

A special award for participation was given to AIDS educator and Psychologist Arnett Thomas while the Outstanding Leadership Award was shared by B.M.X founder Manago and Reverend Gaither of Faith United Methodist Church.

Also receiving special honors in the B.M.X. leadership movement were Parnell Marcano of Los Angeles, Michael Jones and Vincent Solomon of Oakland, Kevin Watkins and D'Anthony Johnson of Atlanta and Floyd Meyers of Detroit.

THE ART OF MIGUEL ANGEL REYES TO BE FEATURED AT UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Los Angeles—"People are surprised I can make my living on artwork, but I do. You need to be diverse. No job is too big or too small. You have to be willing to maintain affordable prices and achieve maximum exposure to make it in these depressed economic times," so states Miguel Angel Reyes, one of Los Angeles' most talented and prolific artists.

In addition to commissions and commercial assignments, Reyes participated in over 30 exhibitions in 1993 alone, seven of which he curated. His creations—primarily portraiture and figurative drawings inspired by his early training as a dancer—have graced the pages of magazines as diverse as *Advocate Men, Detour, Saludos Hispanos*, French *Vogue* and *L.A Style* as well as the covers of *The L.A. Weekly*, and *Frontiers*. The donation of some of his work has benefitted ACT UP, The L.A. Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, Project Angel Food, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Minority AIDS Project, Bienestar and Gay & Lesbian Latinos Unidos.

The somber tone of his creations is not by accident. "We are living in somber times," he says, "and I guess I'm capturing that freeze-frame. The world is in kind of a mess, and I'm more interested in individuals and the way they survive against all odds."

A month long exhibition of Reyes' work opens Saturday, October 22nd, at the Granados Gallery, 3221 Glendale Blvd., 213.662.9930, while yet another Reyes exhibition will open Thursday, November 4th at the Six Gallery Cafe, 8861 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood.

"RIMMING" IMPLICATED IN KS

Washington D.C.—Researches have long noted that Kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer of the blood vessels, seems more likely to affect men who have sex with other men than it does other HIV+ people. Recent evidence, reported in the newsletter of the Pitt Men's Study, suggests that the cancer may be related to exposure to someone else's fecal matter through "rimming". People who engage in rimming may become infected with an agent that causes KS in someone who is HIV infected.

Rimming is also implicated in the spread of other sexually-transmitted diseases such as syphilis, strains of hepatitis, gonorrhea, and other infections which are particularly harmful to people with compromised immune systems. □

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Style & ATTITUDE

BRING LIFE TO BLACK GAY PHILADELPHIA

by tracy c. gibson, philadelphia correspondent

Stars is "the" hang out in the down-town area for gay and bisexual men of African decent in Philadelphia. It's about the only bar in Center City that caters mostly to Black gay men.

"This is the city where the notorious Frank Rizzo ruled as mayor for eight years (1971-1979); the city that saw Delbert Africa of the Black back-to-nature group MOVE beat and kicked by police on national TV in 1978 and then in May of 1985 saw MOVE members and children victimized by an awesome fire that destroyed over two city blocks.

It's the city of the '76ers (1983 NBA Champions), where City Hall sits under William Penn's hat, and where Blacks make up more than 40 percent of its 1.5 million plus population.

This city has produced some of the best Black thinkers and artist in modern times—Reverend Bill Gray, Reverend Leon Sullivan, retired U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, the late writer and editor Joseph Beam ("In The Life"), the late "Williwear" fashion designer Willi Smith and Miss Patti LaBelle.

Patti may have a new attitude, but many Philadelphians seem satisfied with the one they have. Too often that attitude does not seem to be a very pleasing or progressive one. There seems to be a greater acceptance of behavior here that is lacking in decorum and tact. A mentality that is often less sophisticated and more accepting of things not embraced by many Blacks outside these borders. It is the kind of mentality that is sometimes about neighborhood, community, church and family, but also sometimes, negative, bitter and homophobic—a mentality that asks for little of the most needed things and accepts even less. It can be self-destructive and self-hating. It is often a mentality that doesn't understand the full worth of people of African decent.

Black people who are actively about working for real progress and change and who promote self-esteem and greater political awareness here stick out like dolphins in a school of flounder. So many Black Philadelphians are just lucky to make it from day to day that building inner strength and an attitude that reflects a strong spiritual center is often overlooked. How that spiritual center fits into the bigger picture and can give greater substance to life, it seems, is also rarely in focus.

Naturally, Black Philadelphians do not have a corner on the market for poor self-esteem, but it is very pervasive here. While all this has to be considered in light of the fact that we are an oppressed people and that oppression takes many forms, there is something unique about Black folk here. That uniqueness undoubtedly spills over into the Black gay community.

Life for gay and bisexual men of African decent in Philadelphia is largely about style and attitude.

It is the correct style and attitude that, if interjected through the system here, can bring about positive social change. It is style and attitude that separates Black gays and bisexual from the rest of the Black community, the gay community and other sectors of

We won't let nothin' hold us back.
We're puttin' ourselves together.
We're polishing up our act."
—"Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now"
McFadden & Whitehead
Philadelphia International Records, 1979

the city. It is style and attitude that helps make Black gay and bisexual men in Philadelphia the unique, intriguing, interesting, vibrant, colorful, proud and sometimes playfully scandalous people they are.

Black gay men here with positive attitudes and loads of self esteem are making a difference. Several Black gay activists said that self-esteem is a major issue here and that the level of self-esteem determines the style and attitude carried as one makes it through life in this city.

Any look at life here for Black gay and bisexual men would have to be presented through a backdrop of what life is like for Blacks in general and what the mentality of a good number of Black folks here is like.

Although there is no geographical "Black gay community" in Philadelphia, Black gays do get together for parties, at the clubs and cruising areas as well as at social, cultural and political events.

A comprehensive survey of the Black gay scene here would have to look at at least three aspects of life for BGM's here: the bars, the organizations that cater mostly to Black gay and bisexual men, and the "Houses". Even this, however, reveals only a slice of what it is like to be a gay or bisexual man of African decent here in the City of Brotherly Love.

There is basically one club here, "Stars", which caters to adult Black gay men. It is a step or two above such places as "Smart Place" (which is now closed and was also known as "Dusty's"), but because of it's lack of a true tacky look, "Stars" holds little appeal for many of the local brothers who prefer a grittier atmosphere.

Nonetheless, white-owned "Stars"—there are no black owned gay bars in Philly—is crowded on weekends because it basically has a captive audience.

Lines are drawn pretty solidly here. White people go to white bars and Black people go to the Black bars. Most of the few gay brothers who frequent the white bars are dismissed as snow queens. There are usually about a half dozen white men who somehow blend into the action at "Stars". One assumes they prefer the company of Black men.

The bar scene here is just a microcosm of life in the city. Philadelphia is called a "city of neighborhoods", which is a nice way of saying life here is very segmented and generally unequal.

Organizationally, Unity, Inc., headed by 53 year old Tyrone Smith, is a BGM and Black community mainstay. Unity provides sensitivity training designed to challenge some of the myths about Black gays and break down the barriers relating to us.

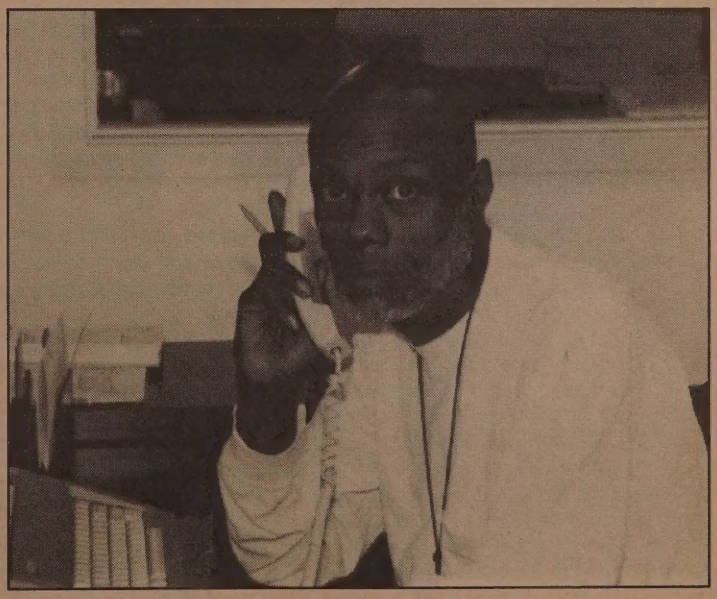
"Unity was founded in 1989 in response to the lack of services being provided for the African American gay community," Smith said. "Other groups were unable to provide the cultural sensitivity required. While Unity now provides case management for people with AIDS and those who are HIV positive, it is not only an AIDS organization.

"The main reason Unity was formed was to bring some cultural sensitivity, on a grass-root level, for African American gay and bisexual men within the city. We were given a small grant to do a one day project. We did a one day conference and splash party at the Franklin Plaza (Hotel). Out of that a video was developed called "Out of the Shadows" which we now use in our sensitivity workshops. The video talks about the need for culturally sensitive organizations for Black gay and bisexual men and other issues.

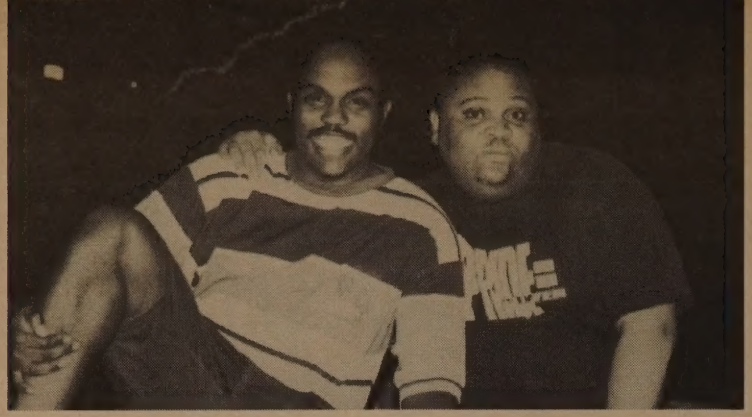
"At the same time we have to sensitize the Black community and the larger gay community to the cultural needs of African Americans. Talk about gay...the larger community seems to think there is a monolithic community where there is no racism, no prejudices. (But) there is racism within the gay community here. Black gay men are more than just men who sleep with men. We are a part of the African American community first because we are the seed and the fruits of African American women.

"We come from a community where 'The Black Gay Community' is not discussed. Sexuality is not discussed other than that of a heterosexual nature. Sexual behavior is not discussed. There was no venue for that kind of dia-

Colours Organization founder Elliott Prescod.



Tyrone Smith at work in the office of Unity Inc. He serves as Executive Director.



Jerome Carter (left) and Kevin Hardy, members of the support group Adodi, take time after a meeting to relax and enjoy the August night air in Center City.

logue or conversation to take place. We've had to build bridges. Our video distinctly talks about parents and what (some) African American women, in being parents, have had to incur in raising their children as a part of this (gay) population."

Smith, assessing Black gay men in Philadelphia by saying they are "diverse" and not "monolithic", also pinpoints what he sees as a problem.

"I think that Black gay men (here) are not politically motivated. It distresses me to see that some Black gay men identify themselves first of all by their sexual orientation. We must be politically motivated. We need to see how we fit into the broader scope of things. We need to find individuals who are supportive of our issues."

Other organizations that provide services to gay and bisexual men of African decent here are the Colours Organization and Adodi Philadelphia Ins. Colours is open to all men of color, not only African Americans. Adodi Philadelphia Inc. (profiled in the May 1994 issue of *SBC*) was founded in 1986 by the late Clifford Angelo Rawlins, who was a local arts therapist. Adodi was started to end the isolation of Black gay and bisexual men during the AIDS era. Adodi is a support group that offers regular Friday night meetings, conferences, retreats and special events that center on self-esteem, self-empowerment, lessening internalized homophobia, relationships and interpersonal issues. The group offers fellowship and a "safe space" for its members.

Colours is organized differently. Recently I spoke with Colours founder, Elliot Prescod, a small framed native Philadelphian brother of 29 who lived in the suburb of Yeadon for some time. An attractive, focused and intelligent individual, Prescod, a professional fair housing advocate, gives background on his organization:

"Colours started out in 1992 as a magazine," he points out. "There was very little that was positive about Black gay men to read about themselves in the city.

"From the magazine we began to identify areas and services (that) men of color could benefit from. We were going to sponsor training and workshops and activities that were positive and (allowed men of color to be) supportive of each other. At the joint conference (with Adodi and Unity in 1993) I ran into a young Black gay man who was very impressive. The idea kind of popped into my head to have a youth group. That's how we started our youth group called 40 Acres of Change.

"We also do some advocacy work. The first person we really worked with is a guy named Kevin Spencer who was shot 7 times and left to die in a section of Fairmont Park near the Art Museum. We've gone (on his behalf) to the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities and the police. We did a campaign to get other agencies to write and complain about his treatment. There was a lack of interest in the case because he was a Black gay man. The case is now high-profile and still ongoing."

When it comes to information about the Black gay "Houses" in Philadelphia, 27 year old Kwame Banks is the brother to talk to. Banks is operations coordinator for the Colours Organization and the father of the House of Ferragamo which has been in existence for about two and a half years. The House of Ferragamo has eight members.

The "Houses" are an aspect of life for Black gays and bisexuals that got some airing through the popular film "Paris Is Burning", however, very little is still understood about this fraternal institution outside of "House" circles.

Kwame's "House", like most "Houses", is not a geographical location, but a network of Black gays who look to people like Kwame for advice and guidance. Kwame serves as a role model for the members of his "House".

"A House is like a fraternity except we don't all live together. As the father of my House, I do many things a real father will do, but I don't have to provide for them because they have their own jobs and take care of themselves. I provide direction and guidance, both inside and outside the ballroom world.

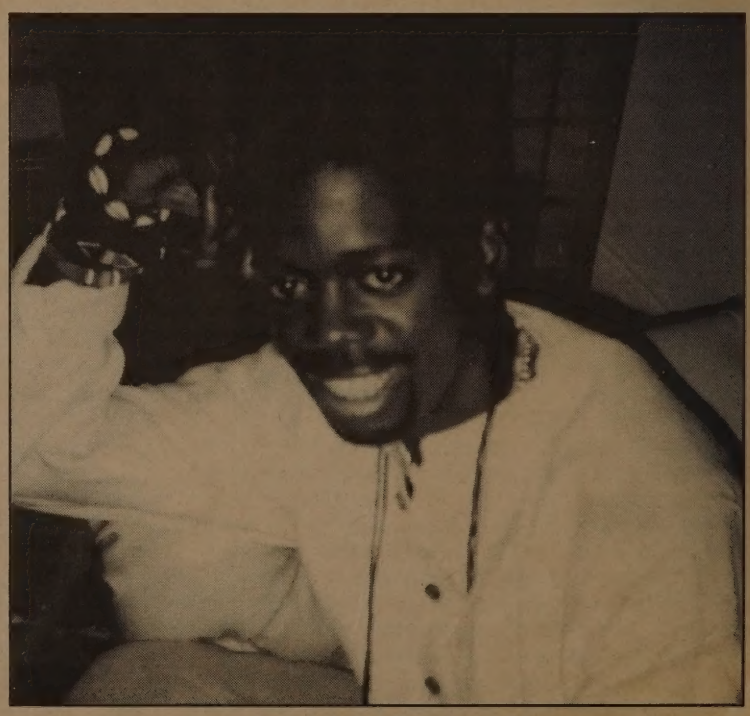
"As father you are a role model for people in your house and also for people in other houses. They look to you for inspiration, and everything they do is a reflection of you.

"You are usually dealing with younger people who are often going through a lot. Sometimes their parents don't know (that they are gay), or knowing, want to throw them out, and even if they're not being thrown out there is still a lot of stuff they're going through that they can't go to their parents about. The movie 'Paris Is Burning' touched on some of that, but the problem I had with the film is that it gives a lot of negative images about the house scene. I'm not going to sit here and make it a fairy tale world, but everybody is not about that (which was portrayed in the movie).

"The funny thing was I didn't walk balls before 'Paris Is Burning' was made. (The film) is what influenced me to do it. It made it seem interesting, kind of deep, so I said I wanted to go to one. I ended up walking one during the first one I went, to and it just went on from there.

"Now it's not that it's serious, like the ballroom is your life, but you are a unit (as a "House"). You are a group of people and for whatever reasons, you carry on a certain name and give a certain impression of yourself. In that whole realm, when you walk a ball, that's your whole world for the evening. You have to realize that when the ball is over the trophies don't pay your rent. So you better have something else going on. When you can take that talent and go elsewhere with it, that's great and that's what you should do. But if it is recreational, you get in there, you give it your all, but you have another life and that's what a lot of people do lose track of in the ballroom scene. (For some) this does become their whole thing."

In spite of many rough edges, the city of Brotherly Love does have it's own unique brand of Brother-To-Brother Love. There is not space enough in these pages to even scratch the surface, but there's always room on the streets of Philadelphia and in the hearts of Black gay Philadelphians for a visitor to drop in and say hi and get the feel and the pulse and the sound of Philadelphia for himself. □



Kwame Banks is Father of the House of Ferragamo and operations coordinator for the Colours Organization.

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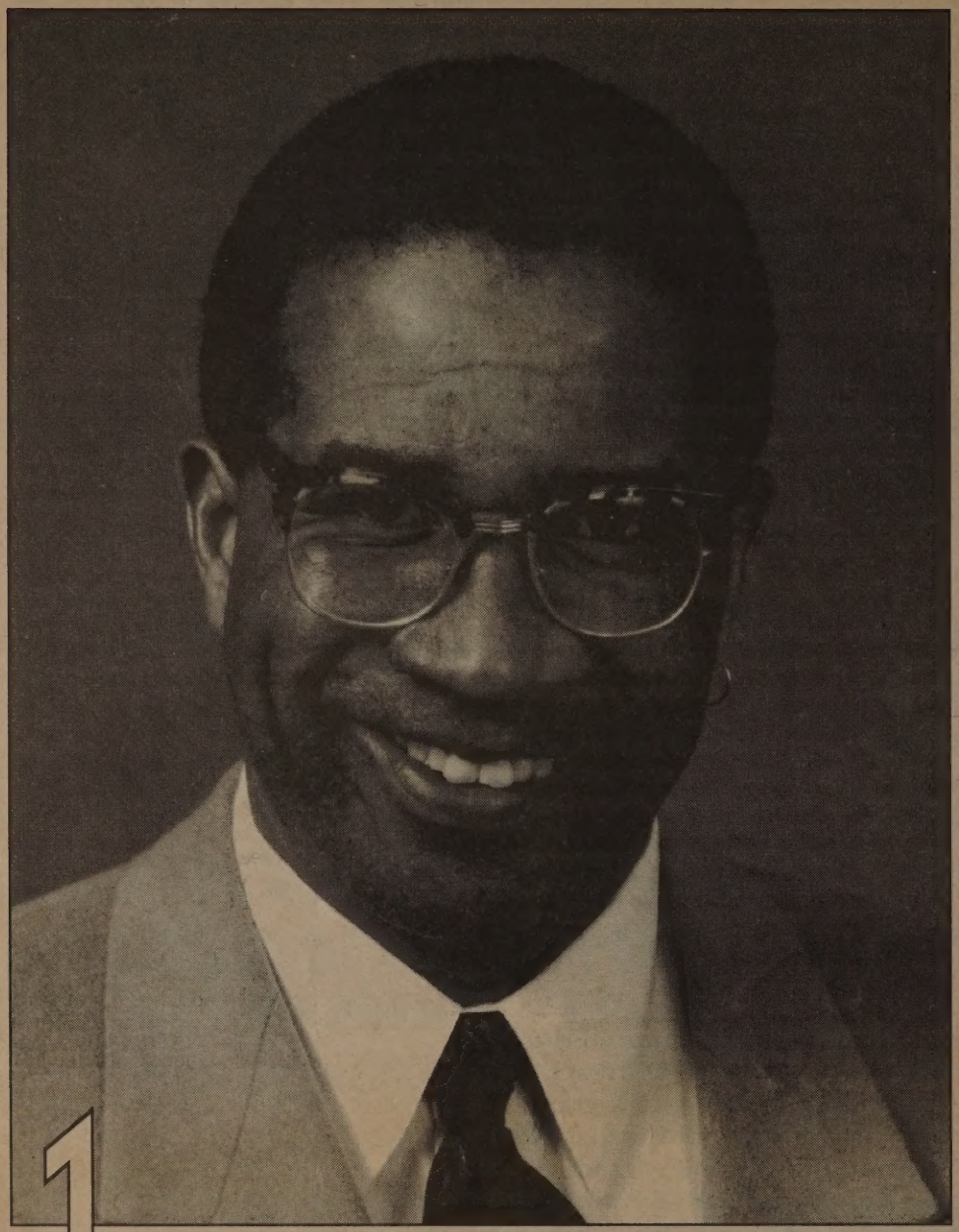

1 ON ONE

WITH APLA'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMES LOYCE

an interview by stanley bennett clay

AIDS has become big business. The infection and death of thousands upon thousands of innocent persons—all persons with AIDS are innocents—has lined the pockets, created careers, given old stars new leases on glitz and glamour and has afforded the white gay community yet another opportunity to exercise it's 'manifest destiny' and preserve it's elitist status as a community of privileged white Anglo-Saxon men.

Tax payer's dollars are poured disproportionately into white AIDS service organizations while People of Color agencies, operating in their core community, still struggle to make ends meet with the crumbs left over.

There is little wonder why so few black faces are ever seen in the media coverage of gay rights events and gay-related AIDS coverage. And the few black faces seen usually have white boys sitting on them.

Government grants are used to keep the old boys' network well oiled and well fed, taking tax dollars to advertise the message through 'white boys only' publications while black gay publications continue to struggle to get the word out to the community, murdered in the crib through economic negligence.

The unconscionable economic and social behavior of the white gay community has allowed the Religious Right to take a new strategy: Team up with the black community, a community that has always and justifiably been suspicious of the white gay elite, play upon the black community's willing slavery to Western religion, reiterate the white gay elite's past transgressions against blacks, convincing black folks that homosexuality is strictly a white thing and AIDS is God's punishment, then divide and conquer the entire homosexual diaspora, returning AIDS to the closet so well constructed by the whitest man that ever lived in the whitest house that ever existed in America. Ronald Reagan.

And herein lies the problem. It is hard to argue with the Religious Right in respects to the white gay elite's exclusion of the black gay community except for bed and buck service, thus convincing Black America that the idea of black homosexuality is indeed an aberration.

The sudden adaptation of the Black Civil Rights movement into the white gay elitist movement seems self-serving and remains suspect to the most fair-minded African-American.

The fight against AIDS and against sexual discrimination is still being undermined by an arrogance that goes back to the 3 pieces of I.D. practices in the white gay club scene of the late 70's and early 80's.

But all is not totally grim. Every year, The United States is becoming more and more colorized, much to the chagrin of newly masked members of the White Citizen's League and the blue-haired dowagers of the D.A.R.

No dynasty lasts forever. Many AIDS organizations are beginning to realize that an honest outreach to individuals outside of the great white

circle must happen, if for no other reason than survival.

I have no real idea why noted African American San Francisco-based AIDS Service Administrator James Loyce Jr. was hired as Executive Director of AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES (APLA).

I do know that some good has occurred since his hiring by this Hollywood-based Agency with a yearly operating budget in access of $19 million.

Whether he is there as just another spook who sat by the door, or whether he is about real change, only time will tell. This interview was given back in July. It is now October. Rumors abound that APLA's honeymoon with the outspoken Mr. James Loyce might be over. We shall see. And we shall watch closely

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY: APLA has been changing. There seems to be more involvement of people of color, particularly black people on the supervisory level. In consideration of the perceived problem that separated AIDS organizations in the general community and AIDS organizations in the black community, is this outreach designed to heal some of those problems?

JAMES LOYCE: There are two answers to that question. The first answer, the short one, is yes. The second one which is a little bit longer is that I firmly believe that we need to be a part of a continuum of care in Los Angeles so that the smaller community-based agencies, particularly in the African American community, can survive on their own. We really do need to collaborate. We really do. We have some skills and services here at APLA that will be useful to the broader based people being served in Los Angeles and specifically to the African American community, but those skills and that expertise should be asked for by the African American community. I will not go to the community and say 'I got this, you need it, you should do this.' That's really paternalistic, and that's not my way of doing business. My view is that we need to work corroboratively and collectively to address the needs of the community that is being infected and affected.

We need to address that from a point of view from the leaders of the community, wherever those leaders are. Leaders of the AIDS service organizations [need to] sit down and say 'here's the issue. Who has the resources? Who has the skills to address that issue?' So if someone from an African American agency says ' I have a problem in the area of development or education' I can say 'we (APLA) do these kinds of things in development. Staff can provide this kind of technical assistance. If you're interested in this, tell me and I'll make sure that that happens. But it needs to be done from a place of people sitting on a level playing field. You have skills that are useful to me and my organization√√ff and you can provide those things so let me talk about what they might be in terms of cultural sensitivity, cultural competence, looking at the broader needs of a specific—in this case African American—community.

SBC: What happens oftentimes is that these so-called leaders in specifically the African American homosexual community are identified and 'crowned' by the larger white community, and as a result, the information exchanged is between someone who is not really a part of the community and is not considered a part of the community. What efforts are going to be implemented to reach out to the 'real' African American community.

JL: There are a couple of things that I'm doing. First of all to the extent that I know African American Los Angeles—I've only been here five months so I don't know a whole lot of people—but I have talked to Bishop Bean [editor's note: Bishop Carl Bean is the founder of the National Unity Fellowship Movement and the Minority AIDS Project, the world's largest people of color AIDS agency] and I expect that I'll talk to Bishop Bean again and he will point out, in fact, some other folk that I need to talk to.

Phil Wilson on staff here is our Public Policy Director. I've spent time talking with him. I've talked to Jewel Thias-Williams, I've talked with Rue because I want to know from the people I knew immediately who else do I need to talk to and can you put me in touch with those folks? I've talked with Doctor Wilbert Jordan [Minority AIDS Project Board Member and Medical Advisor]. So I've talked with as many people as possible.

I briefly met with some of the leadership of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum and I expect that I'll be talking with some of those folks again. I've talked to you in fact, and I will continue to talk to you to ask who do you think are the people who are important to talk to as resources.

At a very early stage in my development here in relationship to the black gay and lesbian community, I'm trying to figure out who is who, who's on first. Everybody has an idea who's on first. What I'm doing with all those ideas is talking to all of the names that I'm given. And I'll collect as much information as I can, and at one point I think that we should sit down and have a discussion.

SBC: That's very important because there are factions even within the community that are not communicating with each other. I think immediately of B.M.X. (Black Men's Xchange) which is consistently left out of everything when it comes to support from well-healed AIDS organizations and AIDS services for the black gay community, which I find ironic considering that B.M.X. is probably the blackest organization in the community, and then again, maybe that is what everyone is so afraid of.

JL: I've never heard of B.M.X. and I talk to a lot of black gay people in this town and you are the first black gay person to say to me those words.

SBC: Ah-hah! I think that goes back to the larger (read 'white') community's coronation of so-called black leaders. Individuals that they call black leaders who, as far as the black gay community is concerned, are not leaders at all. In fact, almost completely down the line those leaders are not accepted as leaders in the black community. As a result, when the larger community wants to talk to someone about what's going on in the black gay community, they go to their self-appointed connections, and those connections simply don't know what the hell is really going on.

They should be talking to someone like Cleo Manago, someone who is never ever talked with outside of the community. He's talked about. Instead they go to these rubber-stamp negroes, and that's frightening.

Even though it is said that AIDS is not a homosexual disease, it still ravages the homosexual community at a disproportionately high level. What is the specific outreach to the homosexual community?

JL: We outreach in a variety of ways. One is called Sex Essentials, which is a prevention education program. We also reach out to the gay community through our Treatment Advocacy Department. Now the treatment Advocacy Department is not necessarily a department that says 'we go out and seek out the gay community', but the gay community has sought out that department because that department clearly understands what the clinical trials are, understands the new treatments being developed and understands the research questions that are going on out there, so people who have those kinds of questions come through this department.

In terms of how else we outreach is obviously through the articles we're writing called "From The Desk of James Loyce" which are, at this point, exclusively in the gay press. It is not in mainstream press purposely and willfully and that decision was made by me early on in my tenure here because if in fact we are going to communicate with the gay community and we're going to use the media to do that, we need to go to those venues which were clearly identified as gay. We need to make sure that the gay community knows that we are partnering and collaborating with them around our ability to serve people who are most infected and most affected by this pandemic.

Also, as I travel through this town, I make sure that I go to agencies that are closely gay identified or who have large populations of gay folks. I work very closely with the Gay and Lesbian Health Services Center over here (in Hollywood). I work closely with other organizations in this town that may not be gay-identified, but by virtue of who administers those organizations, I make sure I have those kinds of contacts, staff makes sure that we have those kinds of contacts.

I think we're there. Can we do more? Probably, but I'm newer at this role here in Los Angeles than some other folks. I'm still in the developmental phase.

SBC: What suggestions do you have for those who are in denial, actually I should say those who are in double denial? I'm talking about those that are in the closet about their homosexuality and those that are in the closet about their HIV status.

JL: I think about how we were doing things in San Francisco—and I think some of that is going on here—we use to do 'Bar Zaps' where we would go into the bars and provide information, condoms, etc. We go into places that are not traditionally gay-identified. Now, why do we go there? Because there are a whole lot of brothers in there who are playing that game around chasing women, now when that doesn't work, they go to the gay community and make that sexual connection; those are the guys who don't own up to the fact that they are having gay sexual relationships, they just won't own it. You see them in all the straight clubs and they're playing the scene and doing all that stuff, but in fact, are having sex with other men.

Now, of course, where I flowed through in my social circle, my friends and associates and those around me always got the lecture, they got tired of hearing it, but the fact is, there were some brothers out there that I knew about what they were doing, and I would just say, 'look, man, what you need to do is to protect you and your partner'.

We need to reach people individually and organizationally, we need to be on the streets, be in the grocery store, if you can't be in the church, be outside the church, be across the street from it. We need to deliver the message and be everywhere repeatedly. One of the things I know about education is that the first time you tell me something I didn't learn it. It took me three or four or five—and some things my momma said I ain't never

learned—but the fact is that you have to keep repeating the message in as many venues as possible. If I see you at Boy's Market and then I see you at Jewel's Room and then I see you at Unity Fellowship Church and I see you at First AME, you're going to get that same message each time. Now, does that change behavior? I can't answer that. All I know is that I have to keep on delivering that message hoping it will change behavior.

SBC: We are still dealing with a lot of our brothers seeking anonymous unsafe sex in the bushes, in the public toilets, how do we get to those individuals, many of them not being gay-identified.

JL: You know, Stanley, the strategies we can employ traditionally haven't gotten to those brothers. Even when we send out an Afrocentric message out to the Afrocrentric or African American community by African American gay-identified men and women who are just everyday folks who are out there—they're line staff, they aren't the ones you see on TV or hear on the radio—the ones who are going to the porno movie houses? The brothers who think ain't nobody see them? The ones who go to the bushes, the bathrooms, outside the stadiums. I mean, we can plaster the messages all over, we can even try to have some individual contact with them. I think we have an obligation to talk to as many of those brothers that are doing those things as possible, and we know who they are and they know that we know, we need to get the messages to them and hope that they will carry it on to others.

Can we get into every place? No. I think it sets us up and the community up to say that we *will* get to every person at every place that people congregate and deliver the message. We will get to as many as we can, and individually, I have an obligation and responsibility to carry it further.

When I see brothers hanging on the corner, when I see brothers hanging around the rest rooms, to extent that I feel comfortable, and I *have* to feel comfortable, I need to talk to those brothers, I need to approach those brothers, and so does everyone else who is in this work.

SBC: The Religious Right, and just plain folks are involved in an attitude that abstinence is the cure, but sex is a healthy thing. So how do we deal with sex as a natural function, yet altering our behavior, in other words, not throwing the baby out with the bath water?

JL: First of all, I think we should never fight with the Right about abstinence. That's the wrong battle. What I would do is include abstinence in *my* message as one of the possibilities. Sex is healthy. Sex is good. I enjoy it and I'm sure that the rest of us do. And if we are fearful as individuals, excluding the Right's message about family, God, apple pie and the American flag, which has never included people of color anyway, if we exclude that and say 'here is the range of possibilities. It may start with abstinence but may end with a total exploration of your sexuality. Just do it safely'.

Abstinence should be included in our message, and it does not have to be the only option, it does not have to be the God option, it does not have to be the 'Right' option. It's one of the options that we've adopted.

SBC: What do you think are the chances of condoms becoming more enjoyable?

JL: I'm glad I've been in a committed relationship for eight years because I hated condoms before I got into my relationship. I don't know if they'll ever be enjoyable, they're constrictive, they don't feel good, but they're our best vehicle for prevention at this point other than the 'A' word.

But there are some sexual activities that one could engage in that don't necessarily include penetration, for example, massages, rubbing bodies close together in a very erotic and sexual way to the point of ejaculation. When you think about your sexual experiences, they don't always include unprotected anal, oral or vaginal sex. I know from my own experience that there have been some sexual experiences that I have had that did not include penetration of some orifice.

SBC: Is AIDS another in a long list of worldwide plagues that have visited upon us in our history as a world people?

JL: I don't think that AIDS is like those other plagues. I don't think it is at all. First of all we have scientific capabilities to address virtually any viral infection that comes about. For whatever reason, we have not been able to address this (AIDS). From my way of thinking—unless some information has come out in the last couple of days that I have not seen—we are no closer to a cure to this disease than we were 12 years ago. No closer.I am not sure that there will be a cure. And even if we found one tomorrow, with the incubation period being anywhere from 3 to 5 years, or depending on which scientist you talk to, 10 to 12 years, the cure would be preventative, I would think, for people who are not infected. For those who are infected right now, and who have full blown AIDS, who have had a number of opportunistic infections, whose T-cell count is low, who have had some brain disfunction—the list goes on and on and on—. If a cure for this disease was found tomorrow, we would still be doing AIDS work for the next 10 to 20 years.

And if a cure came today, who's going to believe it? Who's going to run down there and get them shots. For an example, when the government started giving people flu shots, how many people from the African American community ran down to get those shots? How many people from the Hispanic community ran down to get those shots? In fact, how many people from √√any*ff* community ran down to get those shots?

SBC: You don't sound very optimistic.

JL: I am not optimistic that government in isolation will be able to find a cure and help those individuals who don't have orange hair and live in (wealthy) Santa Barbara County. That's the truth. And I don't mean orange hair as in punk rockers, I mean orange hair because they dyed it so goddamn much. If the person with AIDS didn't look like him (government) he was not interested. We had a man in the white house who for 8 years never even said the word AIDS. No! I am not optimistic.

I am optimistic that there is a chance for *us* to do the right thing, but it must come from the community and other places, other than government. Whether it comes from the Nation of Islam in terms of the ideas that they have regarding the treatment of this disease, not to say that they're right or wrong, but I'm saying that as an example of community-based organizations, or whether it's Chinese medicine—non-traditional and non-Western procedures may have the answer. I don't know. All I know is that the things we're doing right now are not working. And we're not any closer. So no. I'm not optimistic.

If we can't get all those folks, those 'so-called' scientist to get together to talk about their research and share their data in a meaningful way, and share what they're doing in terms of the tests that they've done on medicines wherever it may be from—non-Western medicine, whether it's from the Far East, or from Africa, or from The Nation of Islam, from the Pacific Islands, or from Europe, wherever it's from.

Folks need to sit and do some real sharing. An International AIDS conference every 18 months where people stand around and puff their chests out about the things they're doing is useful in some ways, but in other ways it's useless posturing.

SBC: In regards to our current Surgeon General, Doctor Joycelyn Elders, she tends to come out and shoot from the hip when it comes to Aids. Will she survive?

JL: First, I dislike hearing Doctor Elders described as a person who shoots from the hip, to be quite honest with you, Stanley. I think Doctor Elders does what my momma always told me to do. She tells the truth. She calls it likes she sees it. Truth don't hurt nobody. Truth never hurts anybody but the politicians.

The politicians in Washington are hurt by Joycelyn Elders. Those of us who are for real in turns of trying to address this pandemic are not hurt by Joycelyn Elders' statements. Not at all. She's telling the truth.

Now you have a good point. Will she survive Bill Clinton's ability to fumble every football that comes his way? I don't know. But she's been a very invigorating breath of fresh air to Washington and to the Health Care agenda in this country.

SBC: We have subscribers from almost every State in the Union and some foreign countries. Many of our readers are in small towns across the country, and many of them feel a certain amount of isolation, thinking they're the only gay person in town. I am still very amazed by the mail we receive and the number of individuals who are still not as knowledgeable about AIDS as they could or should be. What can be done to get the word out to everybody, not just to the folks in the big cities where all the big agencies like APLA exist?

JL: I think that we need to call on national black publishers to begin to speak about AIDS. We need to have the Johnson publications—*Jet* and *Ebony* and *Ebony Man*—we need to have *Essence* and all those books speak out constantly about AIDS because those folk that are in those small towns and who may feel isolated by virtue of the fact that they believe that they're the only gay person in town, they're reading those magazines, they're looking at those magazines. Black publications.

The National Black Publishing community has missed the opportunity that they are obligated to seize. The black press in those small towns, even if it's just a two-sheet newsletter, has an obligation to address this pandemic. *The Sentinel* in this town (editor's note: *The L.A. Sentinel* is the nation's second largest black newspaper following *The Chicago Defender*), which is the only publication here that I know of that aims itself at the mainstream African American community, does an okay job. I think it could do more.

BET is all over this country. I don't know anybody who doesn't know about BET. Now I don't watch it that often, but I have never seen them do anything on AIDS. □

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ANTON

romantic fiction by Kheven LaGrone

When I first saw Anton, I knew he was the one. He seemed honest, steady and had a good job. He was also ruggedly handsome. That was a year ago.

But Anton was "involved".

I realized years ago that good men were hard to find. I also realized that the good ones were "involved" and if I wanted one, I'd have to steal him. So I simply set out to steal Anton.

I had no idea how to get in contact with him. I didn't know his phone number. I had no address...until the day my friend Jamal was invited to Anton and Derek's anniversary celebration. When Jamal first mentioned it, I was hesitant about hinting to be his guest. I began to question myself. If they're happy enough to celebrate an anniversary, do I really want to break it up? How far was I willing to chase a man? Am I that desperate? If I could steal him from someone else, couldn't someone else come and steal him from me?

Does Anton like turquoise or carmine red? Do I look best in my blue jeans or my black ones?

I decided to wear my loose-fitting brown jeans that accentuated my 28-inch waist. I bought a brown suede vest just for this occasion. If I wore nothing underneath the vest, I could show off my copper brown chest. I also decided to leave Anton alone. There were likely to be plenty of single men at the party.

I held back my feelings of resentment when Derek answered the door with a warm and friendly smile. I smiled back as Jamal introduced us. I admitted that Derek was attractive and somehow "she" (I was in a catty mood) got Anton. "Welcome", Derek took my hand and walked me through the hallway. He was perky and bubbly.

"Thank you", I bounced a smile back.

"She" rambled on about their anniversary, how it was love at first sight, etc., etc. Maybe Anton is stable, I thought. But how can I compete with a ten year old relationship? I know nothing about Anton...what does Derek have that kept him for so long!?

I studied Derek as he continued to ramble. Occasionally, I would chuckle at one of his daffy jokes. Yes he had nice features; a beautiful, smooth, dark chocolate hue and short, neatly-sculpted hair. I wondered if he was vain. Does Anton find vanity sexy? I noticed that Derek and I were about the same size. Evidently, Anton likes men our size...a definite plus for me. But even I was not vain enough to believe I could ignore Derek's ten year head start.

For the rest of the night, I only said an awkward "Hello" to Anton. I don't even think he noticed me the whole night. So I studied Derek to see what kind of person Anton liked. I studied the apartment to learn Anton's taste (I'm sure that gaudy arrangement of peacock feathers, tastelessly displayed in front of that picturesque window, was that "bubbly-assed" Derek's idea. I'm sure he studded that tacky brass vase with those rhinestones himself. Obviously, I have better taste and could provide Anton with a more pleasing ambience.).

Most important, I discreetly studied Anton to see what kind of man was he. He seemed simple—even graceless. I never considered myself a materialistic person, but I wondered if Derek or Anton had the money? I could find no clues.

Eventually, I found myself staring out the window at their sprawling view of Lake Merrit.

*****

Months later, I was strolling along the lake. I had walked the lake many times and wasn't doing anything unusual, so I ignored the park ranger cruising alongside me. After about two minutes, I got irritated. I stopped. Rolled my eyes. Put my hands on my hips. I curled my lips to cuss him out...until I looked in the car. It was Anton in uniform. I hadn't seen him since the party.

"You're gonna cuss me out, heh?" He teased.

I stood there speechless.

"Say something" he laughed. I searched for something—anything—to say. It was the first time I had seen his soft brown eyes in the light. My heart swelled and I knew I was in love.

I perked up a smile. "What are you doing here?" Oh no, I thought before I caught myself, I didn't say that!

Anton smirked. "I'm sure you didn't mean for me to answer that!"

But my embarrassment quickly faded as we talked. Anton was witty and a good talker. He told me about people in the park—including the area where men prowl at night. He told me about the man who got mugged at the lake at night. As he talked, I played my shy, quiet role. I already said one stupid thing. I didn't want to get caught in another. Since he was supposed to be working, I gave him my phone number so we could continued our conversation at another time.

Two weeks later, Anton called me—I was surprised he called at all. For about half-an-hour, he revealed his passion for car shows (his favorite classics were the Corvairs). I listened patiently. He bragged about his winnings from gambling trips to Reno. I was surprised to learn his full name was Antonio Valdez-Robles.

Out of the clear blue sky, he invited me to ride with him over to the city (San Francisco). I started getting dressed immediately.

I gave him my address and he was outside blowing the horn less than fifteen minutes later. I bounced downstairs still combing my hair. This looks tacky, I told myself, but this man is not available anyway...I don't need to impress him (but I was not going to miss this chance to catch his attention).

As we rode over the Bay Bridge, I had to admit, it was nice letting someone else be in charge. I sat back and watched the San Francisco skyline against the blue of night and the twinkling stars. Some new group—Anton told me they were called Vertical Hold—created a mellow mood. I loved that woman's voice—it was simply pretty.

I decided to transcend my trance for a moment. "Where's Derek?" I asked.

He shrugged his shoulders and kept rocking to the beat of Vertical Hold. He even tried to sing along—but Anton is no singer.

We sat in silence about five minutes before Anton interrupted it. "We broke up three months ago."

I didn't know what to say. Do I say I'm sorry—even though I didn't break them up? Would he be offended if I asked if Derek was okay?

"Are you okay?" I asked, though I really wanted to offer him some loving for that evening. Besides, I really couldn't say I was sorry that I finally had the opportunity to see this man.

He talked about Derek for awhile. I listened to show him that I was a good listener. I listened to find out the mistakes Derek made and to make sure I didn't repeat them. I listened for the sexual fantasies Derek had deprived Anton. At one point he stared me in the eye, smiled at me, then whispered, "I like you, you're a good listener." My heart melted.

He turned off the freeway, drove up one of San Francisco's many steep hills and parked in front of a victorian. I couldn't see the color this time of night.

Besides, we did not go up the stairs. Anton had the key to a door downstairs. He wrestled with the key until the lock finally released. He pushed his shoulder against the door real hard until it submitted.

Anton pulled the cord to a single light bulb that barely lit the little alley. The light bulb rocked back and forth as did its light. We stumbled to the back of the house, through the back door into the backyard secluded by a vine-covered lattice. We stopped in front of the makeshift shower. There was a jacuzzi on the other side.

Anton started to undress, "Let's take a shower first."

I hesitated, not knowing what Anton was doing. But he had already removed his socks and shoes. He was removing his shirt.

Whatever he had planned, I wasn't going to be difficult. I didn't want to miss this chance to get his attention. I began undressing too.

As I bent down to untie my shoe, I was facing Anton's naked feet. He wore a sturdy size 10, 10 1/2. My eyes furtively followed his pants up to the shirt he was unbuttoning. He revealed a flat stomach, though with some of the fullness of most 45-year old men. This was a pleasant surprise, in his clothes his square build looked a little chunky. His chest was thick and matted with curly black hair that contrasted with his honey complexion. But like his beard, his chest was peppered with white hair. I sneaked a peek at his thick, tough nipples.

I pretended not to notice his pants drop to the floor. His legs were thick and slightly bowed at his knobby knees. He bent down and raised each leg, removing his pants in athletic, cat-like movements. His legs were sparsely covered with hair. I imagined the coarse fur rubbing against my own soft, smooth skin.

He removed his boxers. I had repressed my desires to kiss his beautiful feet, his calves, to let my tongue follow the inside of his thighs to his pubic area and my desire to tease his nipples with my tongue. But when I saw his pubic hair, soft and curled, I could not repress my desire to massage it. I WANTED SOME OF THAT!

I decided that when I had sex with this man, I'd make it the best sex he'd ever had. At this moment, I wished I knew Anton's fantasies. I was hot and hungry to fulfill any and every one. I studied him in the shower, hoping I would discover his hot spots. Sorry, Derek, I thought to myself, but you fucked up. Now it's my turn.

To hide my excitement, I turned my back to undress. I waited for Anton to get into the jacuzzi before I took my shower.

I waited for Anton to lay back and close his eyes before joining him. The moonlight peeked through the vine-covered lattice. Occasionally he would look up as if studying the stars. I was careful not to let him see me studying him.

Yes Anton, now it's my turn.

I took note of his neat, slightly receding, salt-and-pepper hair. Such signs of maturity always arouse me. Youth and beauty rarely offered me the feeling of guidance and protection that I so often craved. Besides, in America, where money is power, young men almost never have either one.

Anton was fifteen years my senior—I'm sure that was part of my attraction to him. But would my youth lure him or did he need someone with his maturity? Should I be cute or wise? I admit, I've played my youth and beauty to (manipulate men and) get what I want. Some men loved this game—this gave them feelings of power. Others found this game silly and annoying. What about Anton?

As I slowly slinked into the tub, Anton eyed my youthfulness from head to toe. I savored every moment. I savored the moment my eyes met his soft brown eyes and he smiled slightly. I NEEDED TO BE ON THAT MAN LIKE WHITE ON RICE. I wanted to POUNCE on that muthafucka and kiss and lick every inch of—but I controlled myself. Instead, I reached over slowly to massage his leg, eventually placing his foot firmly in my crotch. The massage slowly moved from his thick, firm calf, his ankle, his foot to each toe.

Anton sighed deeply as he laid back and relaxed into my massage. He closed his eyes and stretched out. Anton looked so delicious, I kissed a toe.

Finding no resistance, my hand slowly crept along Anton's calf, along his inner thighs. I imagined myself a phallic worshipper as I hand-brushed the jewels. I reached for a hard, strong symbol of my worship. I was surprised to find it soft and pliant, bobbing and weaving passively in the movement of the water. I stroked, kneaded and tickled—gently, firmly, roughly. No response.

I searched Anton's face for answers. He gave none. Instead, he stared fixedly at the stars

*****

A week later I get a call from Jamal.

"Guess who's back together?" he chirps.

Oh no, I think to myself.

"Derek and Anton..." I'm glad he can't see the look of disappointment on my face, "I heard that Anton's been begging him back all week long." That explained why I haven't heard from Anton in a week.

"That's good", I muster up a little cheerfulness.

"And remember that tacky rhinestone vase with the peacock feathers?"

Of course I remembered it. I knew Derek could not provide Anton with pleasant surroundings with that shit in the house.

"Well, Derek finally made Anton get rid of it. Evidently Anton's mother made that junk—she thinks she's some kind of artist—and insisted that Anton keep it in the front room. Derek said it had to go."

And of course Anton complied, I sighed. □

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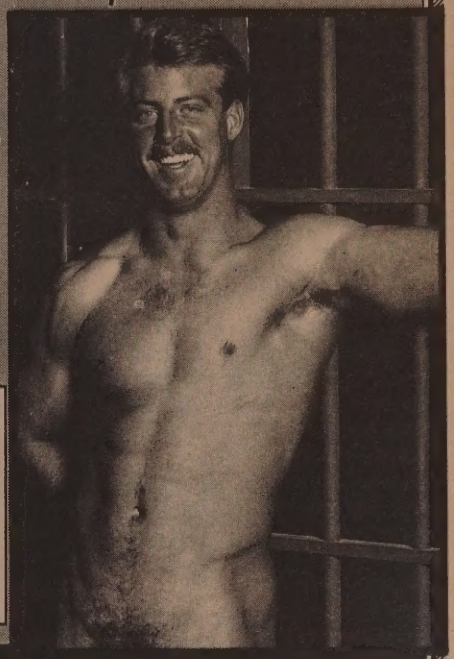

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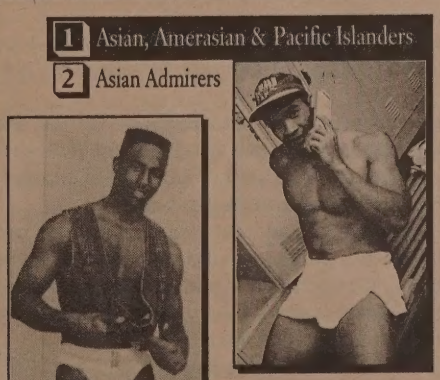

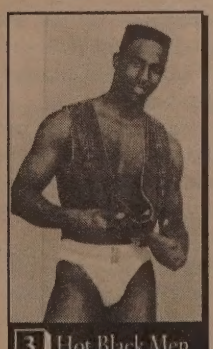

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THE BLACK BOGEYMAN VS. THE YELLA BITCH

by kheven la grone

photo by chip williford

When Chris and Darnell, both light-skinned Black men, began hounding me to explore color consciousness among Black men who love Black men, I had little interest. "No one's into that color stuff anymore", I shrugged.

Was I wrong? After all, how many men had I heard express their like or dislike for Chris using that word "yellow"?

So I asked questions.

Are Black men still singing, "If you're black stay back; if you're brown, stick around; If you're white, you're right"? Have we internalized the notion of "Big, black and ugly"?

Had Black men internalized images of the white god/black savage where light-skin was pretty and dark-skin was bestial? When a Black man claims that light-skinned men are "too pretty", "spoiled" or "could not be trusted", is he preferring dark-skinned men only because they're "safer"?

Black men have stated that white people treat light-skinned men better than they treat dark-hued men. Are darker-skinned men resentful? If so, such resentment suggest the tension between the dark-skinned field hands and the light-skinned "house niggers" during slavery. How has this resentment (and thus slavery) shaped today's color consciousness?

Color consciousness can be a touchy subject. But Chris and Darnell were right—shouldn't the topic be broached? I decided to explore color consciousness among today's Black men who love Black men—but what would I write? I am copper-hued. Nobody calls me "Blackie" or "Half-breed".

So I asked a number of men to honestly share their stories while I sat back and listened. Sometimes I'd ask the interviewee a question like "What was the most insulting thing a Black man has said about your color?" I'd might also ask, "Do you have a favorite color of Black men?"

Because our conversations were so frank, four of the six me asked that their names be withheld.

I noticed that most of the interviewees were either dark or light-skinned. Brown-skinned men had relatively little, if anything, to say on this issue.

But if our range of hues can be our bane, it is also our beauty. From red-bone, copper-toned, mahogany to blue-blue, Black men are enjoying the choices of our brotherhood. More than one interviewee eroticized Black men of contrasting hues in a loving embrace. Black men of all hues appreciate each other. As one interviewee said, he gets "a real strength and a real high feeling from being with a brother".

Interviewee #1 is a 39 year old message therapist:

"Ever since I was young, I was called things like mellow yellow, yellow, light-skinned, bright and red. As far as the clubs or bed is concerned, I've never ever had to deal with that color bias, with the exception of, maybe the clubs, with Black men who were attracted to light-skinned boys. They don't necessarily say they are attracted to me because I'm yellow or light-skinned, but it comes out because of their comparison of me to their other men. They just happen to like light-skinned boys.

"For some reason, some people think that light-skinned people have more advantages in society and so I've actually been able to achieve more than some darker-skinned guys would be able to—so its good to have me around. I don't know if it's true or not. I believe that it's the "easy-on-the-eye-Negro" routine. I believe that some white people subscribe to that. I know that I've had it pretty easy getting a job or anything I want. I'm not going to suggest that it's only because I am light skin, but I am not going to rule out my light skin having a large degree of weight.

"When I was younger it used to irritate me when they called me mellow yellow and banana and things like that. In my adulthood, I couldn't care less. I really don't care. I'm not in the habit of calling people darky.

"Color bias is not an issue that I discuss. If someone is specifically talk-

ing to me about shade then we might get into a discussion about it. But I don't initiate a discussion on color. I am assuming when you say color you mean a different shade of black.

"I personally think that I am attracted to guys who are lighter because most of my family is light and that is what I'm used to. It tends to be appealing to me. However it really doesn't matter to me because I look past that. If you get to the bottom, the brass nails, the darker a guy is, the clearer the complexion and the nicer the body. People who have the ethnic features, such as dark skin, big lips and large noses are real attractive all the way through—not just in the face—but straight down the body. But then, so are some light skin guys. So it really makes no difference.

"But I am not necessarily attracted to an African appearance. I am not attracted to a Latino appearance.

"I've only had one lover outside of my wife who was light. My lover was just a little darker than I

"I'd like to be a little darker, so I sit out in the sun to get a tan.""But I'm attracted to light skin boys. When they walk in the door I immediately notice them—but then I also notice guys who are 6' 2". But I would say I'm attracted to guys who I'd say were lighter. I don't know why. Most guys who are light skinned have the features that I have and that my cousins have and most of my relatives have. That's what I'm used to seeing. It's what I've become familiar with and accustomed to. Because of that, light skin is what I find attractive.

"If three people walk into a room, I might notice the light skin first, but I might speak to the darker guy first. No specific reason. But I won't necessarily make a b-line to the light skin dude. But I will notice him first. Unless he walks in the door with someone really tall—then I'll probably notice the really tall guy first. Or I'll notice them both at the same time because the mind can do that.

"I was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All they had there were black, whites and Italians. Because of being called yellow and light-skinned when I was younger, you would tend to group with other guys your shade because of a type of common bond. That could also be my attraction to light-skinned boys."

Interviewee #2, Don Jones, is a middle-aged professional from the midwest:

"Color is something I've always had a lot of feelings and a lot of opinions about. When I see men walking down the street, normally I would look at a man on the "fair" side first because normally light-skinned men do draw my attention. I look at darker men too. When I say light, I'm looking at a man whose fair complected, but not "high yellow" with real, real straight hair, I'm not as attracted to him as I am to someone more "toned down"—who has, maybe, curly, light hair or little features showing that he's of "mixed race". Between a really "high yellow" man who looks more white and another man who has a "mixed race" look, but looks more black, I would take the one who looks more black to be more attractive.

"When I see a dark-skinned man—someone my shade or darker—that color attracts me too if that guy is built well, looks nice, has nice teeth and hair. The funny thing about coloring is that when I see a dark-skinned man who's real jet black and has features that seem unusual for real dark-skinned men, then I become excited. When I say unusual features, I mean a real dark person who has straight hair. I do happen to see those men every now and then. Also someone who has real thin features or smooth skin that's that mocha color, that's the kind of men that attract me.

"Real dark-skinned men don't draw my attention as quickly as light-skinned men, but I don't have a preference for light- over dark-skinned men. As I said before, light-skinned people appear to me to be more attractive on the whole. But there is an exception to the rule and I keep that in mind whenever I'm looking at men walking down the street.

"Do I like my color? I think my color is a color I'm not that happy about—but I can live with it. When I say I'm not happy with my color it's that old adage that you want to be something that you're not. I've always thought I was ugly anyway.

"If I wanted to change my color, I'd probably wish I were lighter—and that only stems from the fact that I really don't like the way I look. But it seems nobody is really satisfied with their look, they always think they could look better.

"I think if I were a little lighter, I'd have to have different features. With my features, I'd have to have a thinner nose and the other things that go with lighter skin."

Interviewee #3, Charlie Wilson, is a very dark-skinned 22-year old Health Educator from Oakland, California. Note: Charlie was born AFTER the Black Power Movement and the era of "Black is Beautiful":

"Black men have said to me that they liked my skin tone. They've said that its very dark, rich and full in color. But I've also had other situations where a person said I was too dark and by my being darker than a paper bag, his mother said he should no longer date me. Which is what I call the slave mentality syndrome.

"I find every black man's skin to be sexy. To me, there's a real strength and a real high feeling I get from being with a brother—regardless of what his skin tone is. His skin tone combined with mine, but just knowing that we're both African-Americans though we have different skin tones, is really nice.

"What is my favorite color Black man? I really don't have a favorite. The mentality is what I look at.

"I am the color I'd like to be. I would not take back my skin tone for anything in the world."

Interviewee is in his early 40's and from the East Coast. He describes himself as being into the Afrocentric alternative lifestyle:

"I don't fall in any extremes of color. I'm not dark black and I'm not light-skinned brown. Those are the two extremes where you can be really graphic with someone and hurt their feelings. I fall in-between, so it's kind of hard for a fellow black man to come out on my just being brown-skinned without it reflecting back on him. It's closer to the surface.

"Now if I were a black-skinned man, the world may not have treated me so nicely and I might have hang ups. If I were lighter-skinned, I might have some baggage I'd be carrying by being light-skinned and being a black man. Being brown-skinned is an advantage because I fall in the middle spectrum. I have the best of both worlds.

"It's been my impression that one of the advantages of being brown-skinned is that I'm not so dark that I'm exotic to white people or they want to keep me completely shut out. White people might tolerate me—though not as much as a light-skinned person. But it gives me a little more edge getting through the economic door.

"My particular favorite, push-my-button color is a brown-skinned man with red undertones which I call a "red man". I know in the general vocabulary when people say "red man", they mean light-skinned men who got a sun tan and they look red. But when I say "red man" I mean brown men who, when they stay out in the sun, their body starts getting a hue which is a reddish-brown, sort of a copper tone. The hue is even and very distinct and it is a knock out for me.

"I like all colors of black men except the "pale whites" who, I think, need more sun. I like how black men look when they've been exposed to sun. I don't like how their skin gets blotchy and two-toned when they've been in cold weather."

(The Interviewee was asked his feelings about the notion of light-and-pretty/dark-and-animalistic)

"I would like to say that it doesn't mean that to me. I have a lot of pride in my color and I'm Afrocentric. But on a real gut level, I have some of that

slave leftover that's that real basic gut level.

"I do not think that light-skinned people are prettier than dark-skinned people. What I think is that we don't pay attention to their features—we just focus on their light skin. I don't know if that's because we've been taught to, or because lighter skin doesn't stand out. Dark skin commands attention. Darker-skinned people stand out.

"I'm very focused on light-skin people in a negative sense because they've been held out as a standard to me, so very often I say 'Oh they're not as good looking as people think, people are just fascinated with their light color'. So I have a bias—mine is just in reverse. But deep down inside, where I live, where I fight all the time, I do carry that Mandingo syndrome around that light-skinned people are waiting to be conquered and that they're weaker and they're civilized. Maybe a large percentage of them come in contact with that European morale and want to be like them and so there is some justification.

"Dark-skinned people do get shunned a lot and a lot of black people do have attitude because of hurt and pain. Yet I still carry on that black is better, bigger, more primitive, less complicated. If you're a Black man and you're more built, I expect you to have a big dick. I know that doesn't make sense but that's how I feel. You're supposed to have a big old black dick—not just a big dick.

"If you're light-skinned, it really doesn't matter if you have a big dick or not. Even if you have a big dick, with me, I tend to, on a gut level, want to dominate you and fuck you. It's automatic in me.

"It's not automatic with a darker-skinned guy. It's a challenge. Maybe he's gonna conquer me and that's the intrigue. I hate to say that, but collectively, African-Americans tend to do that. It's how I hear us talk—it's the hush and the giggles when we talk about a brother who is dark-skinned and fine and what we expect of him and what we want to do with him in bed. We don't have that same expectation with a light-skinned brother. 'Oh he's fine, he's got nice hair', 'I bet he gives good head', 'I bet he has a tight asshole.' But the first couple of things that come out is not his dick unless we know he has a big dick.

"I also find that a lot of light-skinned brothers have to act out because they are trying to show that they're not weak, that they are "down", that they are a brother. So they go all the way to an extreme and act out. I think it's synonymous with short men who have a short man complex. They're the first ones who want to fight you in a bar because of that attitude—I'm not going to let you get over on me. Whereas a brother whose brown-skinned or darker has the option of not acting out. It's just "I am what I am". If you notice, sometimes you see the lighter-skinned brothers, or the ones with the most caucasoid features, wearing braids, locks and African fabrics. Same with the sisters, to say 'I am Black—don't worry about my color.

"When I look back at my lifetime, with the hundreds of men I've had, I tend to remember the light ones because they were cute, because I dominated them, because they were good to fuck or they gave good head. This is a generality, and I'm still doing it on a gut level. I remember the dark-skinned ones because they were assertive, because of their builds, because of how they were equipped. That's a racial bias that I'm guilty of. So I know if I'm guilty of it—and I've done a lot of work on it myself—I'm assuming a lot of people have it.

"I have to say this, but usually a light-skinned man, to get my attention, has to do something extraordinary. Either he has to be exceptionally good looking, and I don't mean cute because I don't like cute, light-skinned men—something about it means they're not quite men. I'm sorry to say that. That's general. But it's the truth. To get my attention, a light-skinned man has to have a hell of a personality or looks or he's hung—then he becomes a fantasy. But I don't put those requirements on other-hued brothers

Interviewee #4 is a 34-year old native of Virginia:

"What's the most insulting thing a Black man has said to me about my color? Probably the worst thing someone has called me, which isn't uncommon at all, is high-yellow—high yellow bitch.

"I think the most insulting thing that I've said is also a pretty typical slur—calling someone a black sambo.

"The color that I am most attracted to is that medium copper brown. But right now I'm dating someone who is very dark—and I love it. He's so beautiful, so brown, so dark. He just has beautiful, beautiful skin. It's the first time I've dated a man who is much darker than I am and I'm really enjoying it.

"My love of the African-American race comes, in no small part, from the wonderful colors that we are within the African diaspora. So for me, part of the beauty of our people is the different colors and shades that we come in.

"I think that light colored Africa-Americans, particularly people as light as I, have a lot of advantages. I find that I get waited on before people who are darker-skinned. There are times when I participate in that racism. There are times when I don't. If I'm being diligent, I say that other person was here before me and call them (the waiter) on it. I can cash checks without having I.D. I don't generally get checked for I.D. where I see African-Americans in the same line get asked for I.D. I think it has something to do with the color of my skin and the way I carry myself.

"A lot of white people would prefer to think of us as not black. People will say, 'oh you're arabic' or 'oh you're Spanish' or 'where are you from exactly'—something to get me to talk about my ethnicity. With my short smooth hair, my green eyes and light skin, white people—even people of color—aren't sure of what my ethnicity is. In order for them to categorize me, they want to know what my ethnicity is.

"Light and pretty does, to some extent, describe how African-American men first approach me. I have no quantitative data on which to judge this—other than my lived experience. There's a subtle expectation about my demeanor and my attitude. Part of the attraction I have for the man that I'm dating right now is that he's very dark and very masculine. One of the things that make relationships work is that opposites attract. There's a certain chemistry, a certain excitement, a certain sexual attraction that seems to be part of that dynamic of difference in skin color that's exciting for both of us.

"The assumption that some people ascribe to is that light skin people have it easier. Yes, that's true in some ways. In some ways, it's not.

"A distinct disadvantage for a light-skinned African American, as it relates to my African-American brothers and sisters, is the assumption that I've assimilated and given-up my African-American identity as part of being light-skinned. So people start in their interactions with me, generally speaking, not in a neutral place. They start in a place where they've already ascribed a certain amount of my African-American heritage. They assume that I'd rather pass than claim that heritage. So I find myself trying to prove my blackness. Sometimes I'm not even given the opportunity—rather they ascribe a whole lot of attributes that distance me from the African-American community, but may or may not be true. But I never get to prove myself. I guess that's part of the point. I have to prove myself. I have to prove myself as an African-American. Because I have short, straight hair, green eyes and light skin, I'm not a full-fledged member of the race—until people have had a chance, if they're willing, to let me prove that I am.

"For the most part my skin color has worked to my disadvantage. I have had a really bad time dating African-American men that I wanted to date. I have had much more success in dating other light-skinned black men.

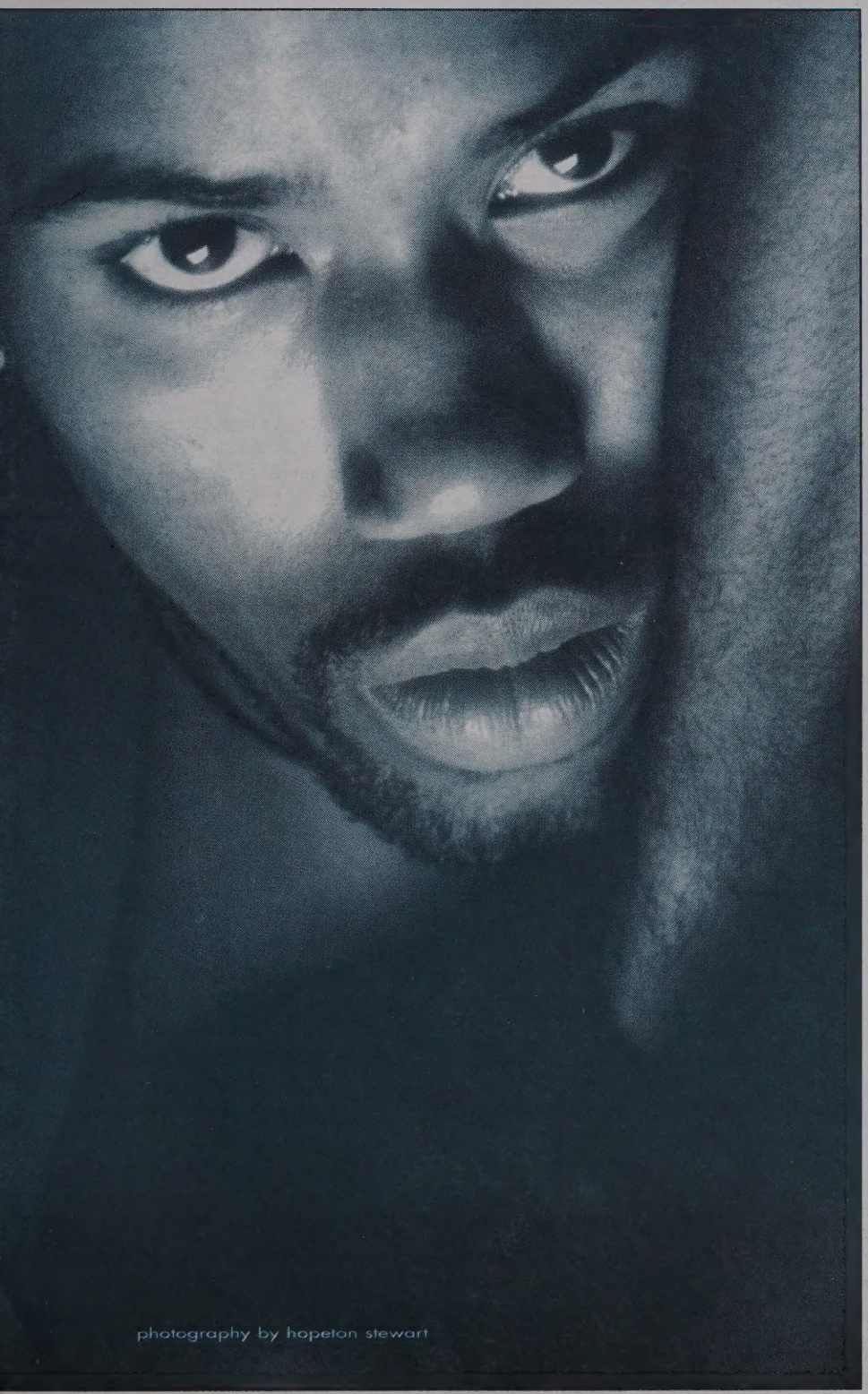
"I have to say that some of the issues that I haven't discussed, but are relevant to me, have to do with class issues. I was raised in an upper-middle class family. I went to school in Virginia. We had a summer home in the Cape—a mainly white community. I went to private schools and an Ivy league school. My search has been for partners who have a similar lived experience and have shared some of the values that I've developed with this background. It's been difficult to find partners from the same economic background."

(When the Interviewee was asked if this was a dark/light issue, he answer:)

"No. There are plenty of African-American families where all the children are dark. I just have not been successful in attracting dark-skinned upper middle class men as my partners."

MAN OF CHOICE:

Gary Reddick II



photography by hopeton stewart

He's a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania studying Communications with aspirations toward film directing.

He's 5'10" and 149 lbs. He's an Afrocentric young brother beautiful in both mind and body.

He's 18 year old Gary Reddick II.

Born in Stanford, California, Gary is fully enjoying his academic stay in the City of Brotherly Love.

"Philadelphia is absolutely one of the greatest cities," he stated, "There's a lot of history and a lot of African Americans who are out and open here. It reminds me a great deal of Oakland."

Currently single with definite plans on getting married, this self-confessed romantic knows exactly what he wants in the man of his dreams:

"I'm looking for an African American man who is first of all secure in his manhood and secure in his sexuality, and who is ambitious and God-fearing.

"Everything I do is part of God's will and it's through Him that all things are possible.

"Coming out for me was the best thing that ever happened to me. My mother was the first person I told. And after you tell your parents you can tell anybody.

"To me it was removing my invisibility—saying that this is a part of me and you have to take it with all the other parts of me."

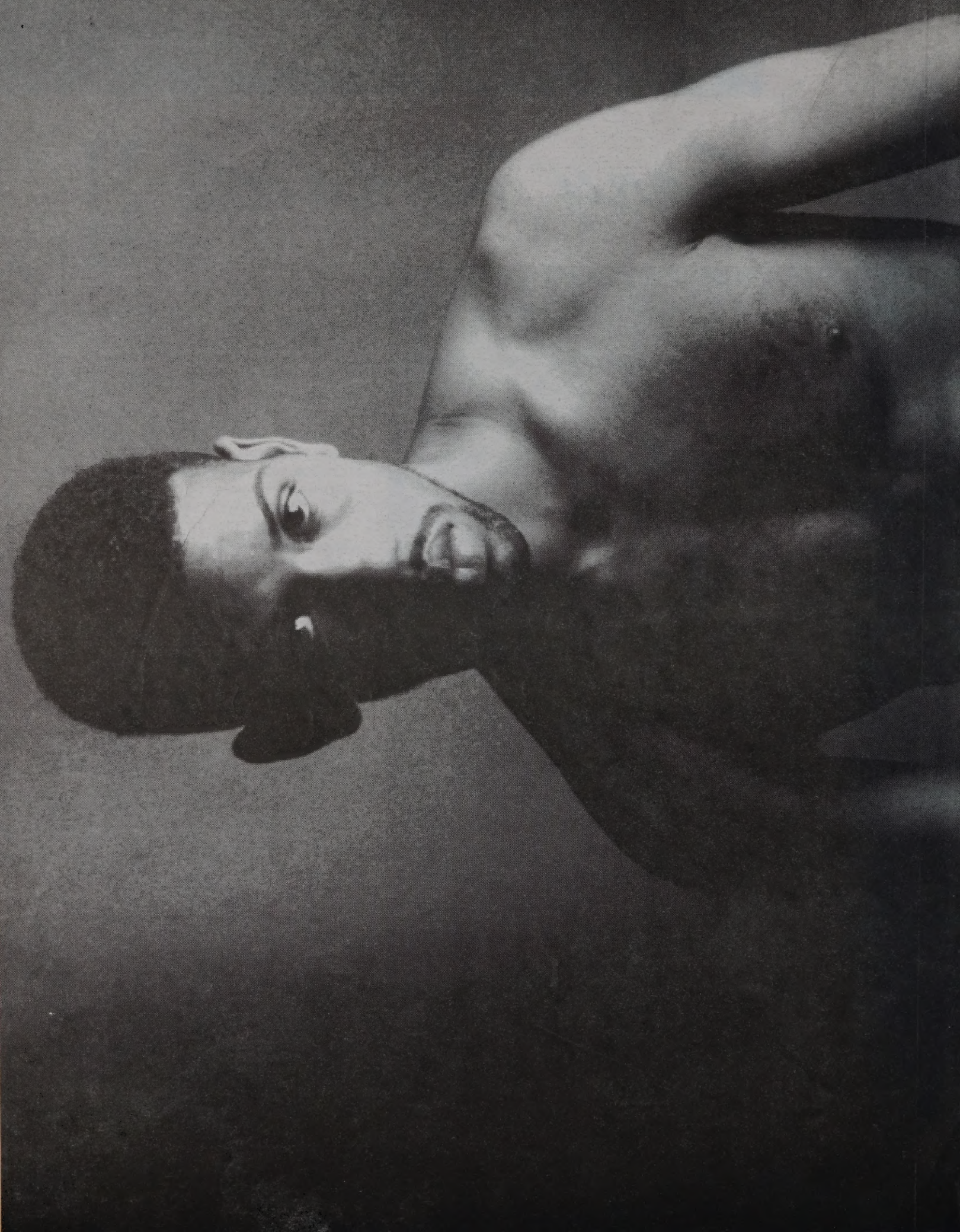
As a young Afrocentric homosexual dead-centered in a generation arguably branded "X", Gary recognizes the responsibilities of his peers, yet, also recognizes the responsibilities that older AfroHomo's must undertake as well.

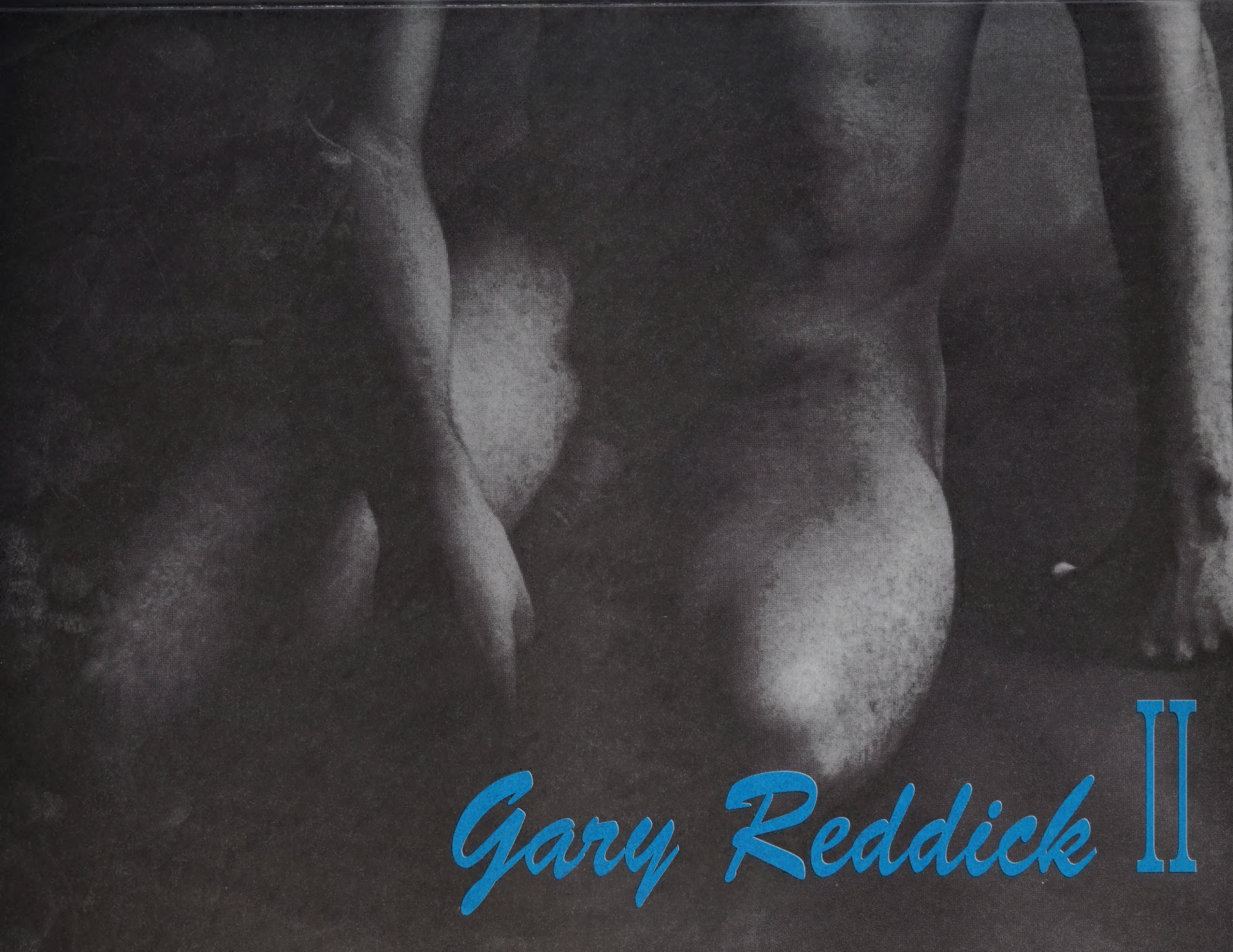
"I think there's a need for open and out role models. I think that a lot of times sexual minority youths are ignored. It wasn't until I came to Philadelphia that I even found a sexual minority youth organization."

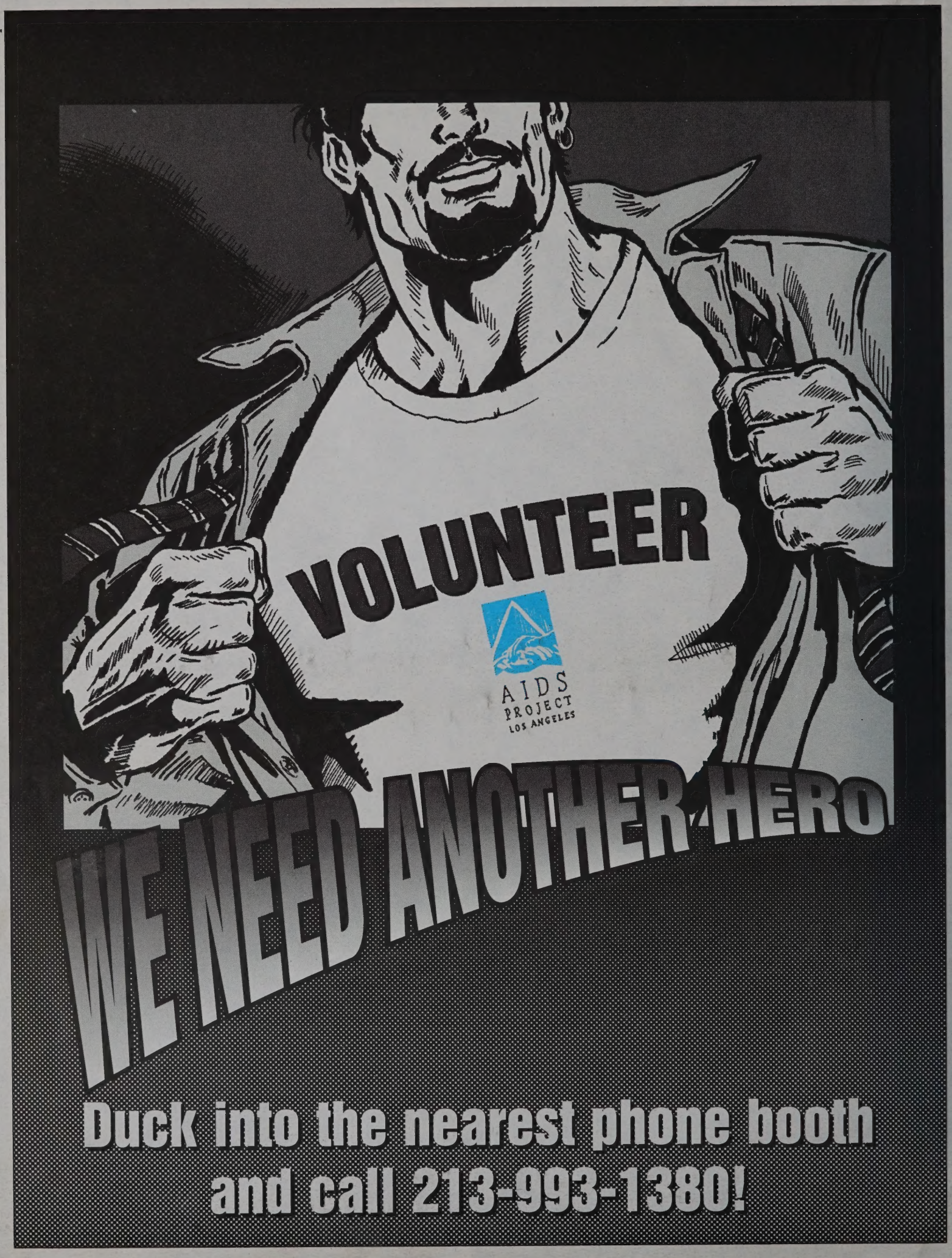
And what says he to young and old AfroHomo's alike?

"Don't let your sexuality prevent you from doing anything you want to do, just like you wouldn't let being Black stop you from doing anything you'd want to do. Just go for what you know."

At 18, Gary Reddick II is a role model for both young and old. A Man of Choice? Without a doubt.




Gary Reddick II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Black, Gay and On The Go:

photo by Double X Posure

Entertainment Businessman Angelo A. Ellerbee

by Stanley Bennett Clay

"I'm black and I'm gay. And those two things don't work in this business very well. I'm very proud of my sexuality and who I am and what I stand for. Sometimes that's resisted a great deal because I'm working in an industry that can't respect me being gay, a faggot, however they want to look at it, and I speak very very loud about who I am. My honesty keeps my relationships. I say 'you want me because I'm very good at what I do or you want to nose inside of what you think the situation is. Ask the question and you will get an honest answer.

"I try to be honest with the people that I work with. That is the key to success and endurance in this business. I am not selling my sexuality, I'm selling my services as a professional."

The business that he speaks of is publicity, artist development, management and image control in the oftentimes homophobic and always high decibel music industry. The man is Angelo A. Ellerbee, the debonair founder and president of Double XXposure, a multi-purpose midtown Manhattan artist-service firm established in 1987 whose clients have included Tony Toni Tone!, Roberta Flack, Nina Simone, Salt & Pepa, Denzel Washington, Boys II Men, Anita Baker, Keith Sweat, Nancy Wilson, Grace Jones, Barbara Walters, Shabba Ranks, En Vogue and Michael Jackson, just to name a few.

The former Director of Publicity and Artist Management for Chrysalis Records, Ellerbee has taken his keen eye for fashion, his sharp ear for hits and his dramatic flair for theatre and parlayed this expertise into creating an organization that puts a spin and polish on record, fashion and motion picture celebritiesnot seen since the golden days of MGM and Motown when stars were groomed to live up to their celestial moniker.

"I've been in the foreground of promoting artist development for the last ten years,." he recalls, "My thing is to go back to the old 60's days, the old Motown days when Berry Gordy took his artists and developed them from mannerism, to diction, to speech to etiquette, to dress to imaging. All those things are what I teach, which makes me different.

"Then I teach the business of music. I think that so many of the minority entertainers today are being cheated out of the knowledge of this industry. They must become more informed about their royalty statements, about what they can do in terms of not having a hit record, how they must go out and survive, how they must select a manager, how to deal with international relationships as it has to do with their royalty statements, endorsements. All these things are important for these people to know because sometimes you can have a big hit and never be able to come back, and then you're lost. You end up back where you were before you had your success. My thing is to show them how to keep that from happening, to show them all the variables of what they can be doing while they're expanding their career.

"My personal surviving tool has been my professionalism and getting the job done. I have a team of 17 people working here who are really very very clear about what they do and how well they do it."

Historically a multi-faceted individual with a drive and ambition that forecast success, Angelo forged a trail toward full entrepreneurealship with interests and involvements in many entertainment ventures. At an age as early as 12 the Newark, New Jersey native began designing clothes. Later, as a freshman at New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology, his line of evening and sportswear were being found in exclusive stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdales, Henri Bendel's and Lord & Taylor.

After having more than established himself as a fashion designer, he set new sights on old dreams.

"Actually I really wanted to be a model, and designing was a way of getting into the field...to get my name known and to make contacts."

Angelo's success as a model was almost instant. After knocking on a few doors, with his portfolio in hand, things started to fall in place within a few weeks. He was modelling in the European big league for such notable designers as Givenchy and Yves St. Laurent while serving as assistant designer to Pierre Cardin, Guy LaRoch and Louis Ferraud.

He later even fulfilled his theatrical jones with distinction by appearing in the off-Broadway production of "Bubbling Brown Sugar" and working with the famed Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre.

Currently, running Double XXposure fills most of his time and demands all of his business focus. Winning is always on his mind.

"When we start to understand that we're living in white corporate America and that we must begin to condition ourselves to work with white corporate America and start to attach ourselves to those kinds of relationships, then we can begin to win the war. So many times young people today are thinking that being brutal and being hostile about various situations like beating people up and doing all these crazy things is the answer, but that doesn't win us anything. The only way that we can win is when we start to educate and stimulate and motivate ourselves to a better understanding and a better lifestyle and a way of dealing with people.

"I think that's what has helped me understand after going through my first ten years thinking that this was a black business. I am in business period. I happen to be black. I understand the plight of the black entrepreneur, but I must also be able to eat and sit at the same table with all kinds of nationalities. I must integrate the whole situation and make it a happening situation for me and for those people who are going to follow after me."

Today, Angelo Ellerbee is a man of great influence, resources and expertise, yet the bright lights, the powerful connections and the big money has never prevented him from giving back.

"You can never give enough back to your community."

Every year for more than a decade, the Angelo Ellerbee Scholarship Fund has presented a $1,000 reward to a student at Weequahic High School (his New Jersey high school alma mater). The student usually studies theatre or fashion design and maintains an A/B average while doing so.

Angelo has also coordinated fund raiser events for The United Negro College Fund, The March of Dimes, NAACP, the AIDS Foundation and the Lou Rawls "Parade of Stars". With education as well as social issues high on his list of priorities, he opened the Angelo Antonio Center for Fashion and the Performing Arts, a multi-functional arts facility in his native Newark.

And if it seems as if Angelo has had nothing but a storybook life, he is the first to admit to the many ups and downs, the many struggles, that have checkered his long and illustrious career.

"I have had so many defeats over the fact that I am gay. That has a lot to do with a lot of things. Not that I'm good at what I do, that I've handled some 47 acts, that I've been in this business for almost 19 years. But guess what? At 37 years old I'm not hiding it. I'm not hiding who I am."

Did he ever think about giving up? Did it ever challenge his tenacity?

"Let me tell you something. There have been so many things that have happened to me in this life and time, that God has granted me with, that I either wanted to give up, slash my throat or do something. But my only salvation is God. I pray so much. I give him the quality time. I'm not a born again Christian, but I do know that there is a higher spirit than I. And I talk to him, and I pray and I present what needs to be presented and I go on ahead with life."

I understand that there are many obstacles, many, many obstacles that try to stand in the way of success. We have to learn how to go beyond these obstacles in order to reach the apex of success.

"I'm not asking for anyone to win the race, I'm asking for them to stay in the race. For black entrepreneurs, it is so difficult to stay in that race, but we have to keep running on that track. It's called longevity. If we can stay in there a long period of time, people know us, we build up credibility, we will win!

"Networking is very, very important. I stress it a great deal. It's called security. I share my worth and my knowledge with any and everyone, with other publicists, with other creative people, because it brings another form of knowledge to me.

"So many of us are so afraid of sharing with one another because we believe that they are going to take something from us. We must begin to understand in the black community, in the gay community and the heterosexual community that the only way that we are going to win is if we come together. It's not a sexual thing, it's not a racial thing, it's a community thing.

"In time you'll see the growth and in time it will all come, and now, the key thing is just enduring so you can appreciate it when it does happen. Trust me." □

THE AIDS PREVENTION TEAM'S GRIOT:

by blaine teamer,
treatment advocate

THE MEN IN MY LIFE

TROY FERNANDEZ

Excuse my French. L.A. is wearing my ass out. These children are trying to trample all over my nervous system. When I get home I am so beat. I need something to calm my nerves. So I make some chamomile tea. I sit in bed and drink it. It has a calming effect. Troy Fernandez has that effect on me. I always enjoy being in his company. He is like my human version of chamomile tea. He's warm and has a wonderful natural flavor. It's nice to know someone like that in this town. I met him about three years ago when I first came to L.A. He's 32, originally from New York and he's another fine example of the wonderful MEN IN MY LIFE.

Troy Fernandez, 1993 at Brother 2 Brother Retreat.

BLAINE: Troy, I see you as being a very spiritual person, very centered. Where does that come from?

TROY: It's a growing process. I feel that I've grown up with the sense that your spirituality reflects many different things. My mother used to say, "Some people are so spiritual that they are no heavenly nor Earthly good."

B: Who are the biggest influences in your life?

T: There are a lot. Right off the bat would be my mom, Diane. That's what I call her. She is a strong woman. Even in her frailties I see a great deal of strength. Her mother Patty, my paternal great Aunt Lillian are all some strong, very powerful women. They radically influenced how I see the world. I've often said to myself that I was reared at the feet of Goddesses. My father, to an extent, had his input. He gave me some good values, at least the best ones he could. There was this little old Jewish librarian that had some influence on me. She opened my mind to books and reading.

B: What are you reading now?

T: *Stranger in a Strange Land* and *Savage in the Qualities.*

B: What are they about?

T: *Stranger* is a science fiction story. *Savage in the Qualities* is a story that deals with environmental racism, the education system and how people of color lack education because of their environment.

B: You should come to our reading circle. It's called When Zora Met Langston..., and each month we pick a book by an African-American author. We read it and then discuss it in the group. It's a real hoot. We are doing the Black Bourgeoisie. It's really deep.

T: It sounds like fun.

B: I'll send you an invitation for the next one. Back to business. When were you first diagnosed with the HIV virus?

T: Let's see...around Easter 1990.

B: What made you decide to get tested?

T: I had been testing every six months for years. Ever since 1983. It became part of my normal procedure that I go and get tested.

B: What was that period like in the early 80's?

T: There was a paranoia, but for some good reasons. We didn't have a clue as to what was going on. We didn't even have a name. First they were calling it GRID and the gay plague. Strangely enough, I only saw it around my white friends. I didn't see it among my Black peers.

B: Did you get the impression that it was only happening to White people?

T: I didn't think that Whites had a corner on the market. I thought that it would only be a matter of time before it would touch all of us. That is why I started doing what I needed to do, so I could find out about my own status.

B: What was your reaction when you found out?

T: It certainly didn't catch me by surprise. I had been in two relationships with guys that tested positive for the virus. I was o.k. with the diagnosis. As a matter of fact, I told the guy that gave me the results, "Before you say anything I think I have a very good idea that this is a positive result." His mouth just hung open. I don't think that he was expecting me to tell him my results and for me to seem like the counselor. I explained to him that I understood what I needed to do, and that it wasn't a death sentence. His mouth still hung open. He thanked me when it was over, and I went about my business. I remember going home. I was living alone. Once I got there, I just sat very still. I took a deep breath and said, "all right."

B: What next?

T: I chose to chill out for a while. I knew that I would need some time to figure out what was

continued on page 30

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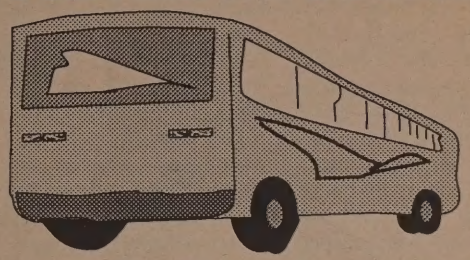

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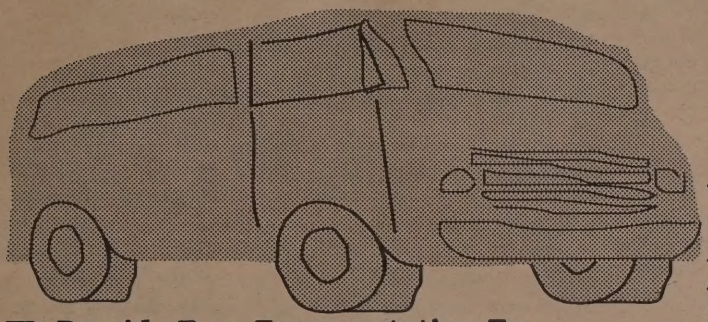

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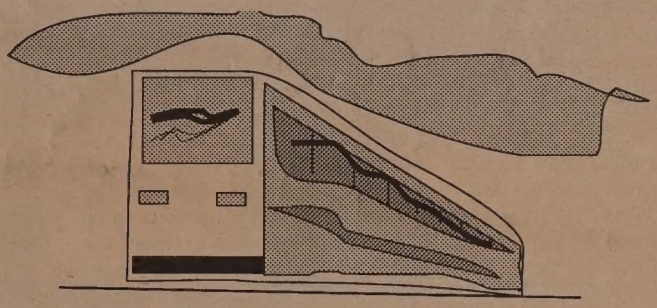

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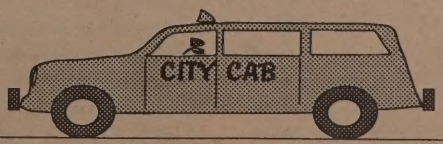

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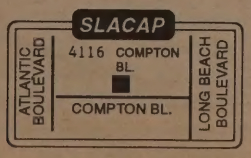

Funded by RYAN WHITE Comprehensive AIDS Research Emergency (CARE ACT) 1990

continued from page 28

going on. I was asymptomatic, so fortunately, I didn't have any immediate circumstances that would dictate what I was going to do next. So for a year or two I relaxed and kicked it to see what was going on in my head.

B: How did your family react when you told them of your status?

T: I waited for a year and a half before I told anyone in my family. I told my mom Diane first, and this was after much deliberation. I was concerned about having to worry her. I had been prepping her over the last few years about Gay /Lesbian issues and AIDS. My mother is an outreach worker, so she needed this stuff. I knew she had "AIDS 101" down. However, it's a different story when it's your child. How did she react? Diane was quite cool about it, but I could feel her pain. I would say it's a mother's prerogative to worry about her children. As far as other family members, my brother and sister were very supportive.

B: Where are you in that group?

T: I'm the oldest.

B: It seems like you have taken on this kind of caretaker role. Maybe it's because you are the oldest.

T: Very much so. In my family I accept that responsibility.

B: Do you have an Achilles heel, a weak point? I ask this question because that is what I think this disease attacks. It can be a physical, emotional or spiritual point.

T: I hadn't put it in that context before. I've been wondering what that is. What is my Achilles heel? I often wonder if I'm being proactive enough about my diagnosis and living with HIV. What'll happen once I move on in my progression? I guess I will quickly find out what my weak point is. Hopefully, I will have had some very strong support systems and friends who can help me identify it. I don't think I lack the love and support of friends and family. I really don't know what my Achilles heel is yet.

B: Have you began to develop a health program?

T: It had been happening kind of independent of this HIV thing. I just wanted to live healthy. I thought well what can I do? I just started making changes just before I learned of my diagnosis.

B: When did you become a vegetarian?

T: That too was a progression. In the true sense of the word, I didn't really achieve that status until about 3 years ago.

B: Did you feel a difference taking place as you progressed along?

T: I started seeing a difference. I had stopped eating red meat a long time ago. However, I kept eating chicken and fish. I slowly started to wean myself off of that. Then I weaned myself off of dairy. It was a gentle progression. I found that I wasn't as sluggish. Strangely enough, I was healing faster from little things, such as cuts and nicks. When I finally eliminated diary, I didn't have to blow my nose as much. I didn't have as much mucus, it was really interesting.

B: Were you losing weight from not eating meat?

T: Yes I did. I fluctuated anywhere between 150 and 170. It's always been like that though.

B: How do you satisfy your hunger? I went to a holistic practitioner, and he told me to cut out all flesh. So I stir fried some vegetables. Ten minutes later, I was hungry again, as if I didn't eat at all.

T: One of the things I did was learn how to eat. First of all, I grew up in a home where beans and rice and non-meat products were always part of our stable diet. In that regard, I was lucky because meat didn't define our meals. I went out and bought some books and started learning about the mix of proteins that I needed. It consists of beans and rice, lots of different kinds of grains like millet and barley. I cook pastas a number of different ways. I'm always mixing things and doing it differently. I eat pretty well. I'm actually putting on weight.

B: Have you always been into the gym and exercise?

T: Umm, it has always been a part of my life. I think that being a part of the gay sub-culture there is a pressure (for lack of a better word) to look your best. I don't know if muscles define that for me, but it's certainly a standard. I've seen many reports over the last year on the importance of exercise and how it really helps the body's immune system.

B: What was dating like after you found out your status?

T: I was ending a relationship when I received my diagnosis. I wasn't going to let my HIV status dictate really who I wanted to date. I mean it was something I put into the mix, but I wasn't going to let this thing dictate my dating pattern. However, not too many guys were knocking down my door to begin with.

B: How is dating now?

T: I am in a relationship now, and we are both positive. When I was dating I didn't find it too much of an issue. I have to say there was a period of time when I was actively looking for men that were also positive. That was a nice plus because we'd get to know each other on a different level and talk about what it is like being positive. We could talk about issues that were specific to us.

B: Were they willing to talk about it?

T: If not I just had to respect where that person was and hopefully make our environment such that he would eventually feel comfortable enough to talk to me about it.

B: Have you dated men who were not positive?

T: Yes and we talked very frankly and openly about risk, safe sex and being creative. I wanted to make sure I could hear and articulate what his misgivings or misconceptions were. I wanted to hear where that person was coming from. I'd be lying to you if I said I didn't sweat it sometimes. However, as long as I can get a gage from the person on where they are at sexually, we could kick it and have a good time.

B: How do you introduce the issue? Is it like, "Hi, my name is Troy and this is what I'm about?"

T: Yes. Within the first hour you're going to know my name where I'm from and probably going to know my status.

B: How have you made safer sex more erotic and more interesting?

T: It has become more creative, but I've always felt I have an erotic imagination in the sense of exploration. How do I do it? My God, do we have time? There are a lot of things.

B: Give the readers one thing. Let's call it a Troy tip. Something that they can read and say that would be interesting and safe.

T: I think the refrigerator offers a lot of interesting things. Take your favorite flavor or taste. I like apple sauce. I like to heat it up a bit with some cinnamon and real vanilla. I let it cool and put it into a bowl. You can make a ritual of it. Put the latex on that boy. Then you lather him with the apple sauce, especially around that cock, and have yourself a ball, and go for it from head to toe.

B: How about emotional aspects around HIV and safer sex?

T: I can't tell you how wonderful it is when someone without asking during sex pulls out a rubber. It tells me this brother not only cares a hell of a lot about himself, but he really gives a shit about me. Once I feel safe with someone, I'm down. To me, that is a big turn on, because they really care enough to do that one little thing.

B: Not to change the subject. Remember when we did outreach at the Hollywood Spa (bath house)? I didn't find it to be erotic or sexual at all. it was like being in a mini mall with people in towels.

T: There has been a radical change with the bath houses. Pre-90's, night or day, when you walked in a bath house, people were grabbing you before you could get your clothes off. Now it's changed. I believe that's because of the psychology and the politics of things involved in the age of AIDS.

B: Where do you see the business of AIDS going?

T: I'll tell you where it needs to go. It needs to be around increasing the access. That means if you need something there should be a place in your community where you can get what you need without having to go through a whole lot of bullshit and bureaucracy. We need to be involved in the politics. Decisions are being made everyday about how Black folks can receive services in this country. We need to be speaking up. We need to be at the table when it's being set.

B: Give a final message to the readers of *SBC*.

T: Come out. God knows we need you. We need you in the front lines. We need you everywhere. Coming out is a process, and let those with the experience of coming out lend a hand. Because we need you to bring your gifts to our community. It's not just about AIDS. It's about health care, taking care of our children and our mothers. Be real and be whole. Be happy. □

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Presiding Bishop and Founder, Unity Fellowship Church Movement
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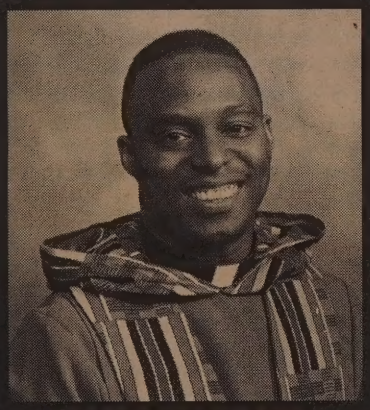

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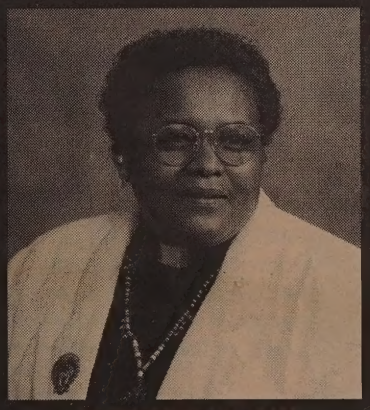

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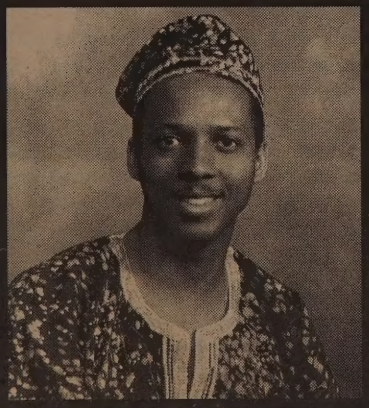

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MUSIC VIEWS AND RE-VIEWS

by patrik-ian polk, music editor

PATTI AUSTIN: MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY VOICE

Patti Austin is at a crossroads in her life, albeit a comfortable one. The singer, a music industry favorite, recently turned 44 and celebrated this leap into what some might call "middle age" with the release of a new album. The critically acclaimed THAT SECRET PLACE (GRP/MCA Records) was reviewed in last month's SBC and features a delightfully eclectic mix of musical stylings. But when I sat down to interview Miss Austin about her latest project, the personable, no-nonsense diva was much more interested in discussing current events and vital causes—both personal and global—that prove once more that when Patti talks the best thing to do is sit back and let her work it.

Amusing, informative, educational, intelligent, witty and afro-conscious, Patti is not just talking out the side of her neck. Whether waxing philosophical about the AIDS crisis, pondering the black community's apathy toward Rwandan relief efforts or bubbling about her adoption plans, she comes straight from the heart.

Patti often lends her name and talents to countless AIDS benefits and charities and passionately recognizes the continued need for AIDS awareness and education.

"AIDS benefits are tremendously important because AIDS has really fallen from grace with the public. People feel bombarded with bad news and don't want to hear it anymore. And that's a real shame because AIDS is on the rise among young people and women."

In addition to the negativity that permeates the media coverage, Patti points to the public's short attention span as another reason why AIDS awareness is failing.

"We're having a hard time staying focused on AIDS because there's not a lot of in-your-face promotion going on like there was about a year ago. It's like 'Well, we've done some benefits, worn our red ribbons for a year and had a couple of TV specials. So that's that. Next!"

"But I have noticed what I perceive to be a much harder drive in Los Angeles than in New York to keep everyone's consciousness level high about AIDS. And that's really important because it's not going to get better. It's only going to get worse and worse and worse. (That's why) I'm still in the battle. I'm still there for anybody who needs me to perform at a function. They need only ask."

In pointing out the news media's lack of attention to important global events such as the AIDS crisis and the situation in Rwanda, Patti blames the media's fascination with sensationalism.

"I learned very quickly living in L.A. that if the world was coming to an end and Liz Taylor dyed her hair, the lead story on the L.A. news would be that Liz Taylor dyed her hair. News coverage on the West Coast is very embarrassing, especially if you were raised on the East Coast where news coverage is serious business."

Patti Austin is at her most vocal when she talks of her efforts to increase awareness and fundraising efforts for the Rwandan crisis which reached epidemic proportions before both the United States government and private sector took any kind of decisive action.

"My particular focus is getting black America involved because there seems to be a level of embarrassment when every time you turn on the TV, you see these Rwandans getting some kind of care and the caregivers are French, German, Irish—anything but African-American. And I know we have some doctors who are ready to go over. I know we have some black folks that are ready to contribute money.

"Rev. Al Sharpton just went to Africa and has said that he is embarrassed by the apathy in the black community about this. I, too, am embarrassed by the reaction, but I think we have to deal with the fact that black folk aren't tuned into this for whatever reason."

Black America's concern with it's own starving children, she acknowledges, may be at the root of the apathy, as well as black America's opinion that Africans don't care about our community.

"African-Americans are very apt to agree with that because very often, as a New Yorker, if you try to hail a cab in the city, which is already a pain in the butt, usually the first driver to pass you by other than a white cabdriver is an African cabdriver. Therefore, African-Americans in New York feel like 'Well, they don't like us so why should we help them?' I hear that from a lot of people."

And then there are those who want to help but don't know exactly what they can do. To that, Patti has an easy option.

"AFRICARES is a black philanthropic organization that's been in existence since 1971 and has raised funds for food, clothing, machinery, farming equipment, clean water and all of these things on a day to day basis. But they're the best when it comes to emergencies because they are a black organization, which means they are tied to the 'underground' so-to-speak. Whereas [white, politically bent organizations] are less effective, AFRICARES can go in and talk to the bishop of Zaire and not only gather the material but get it to the people.

"This is probably one of the most effective organizations out there in terms of getting aid directly to those in need. You pay a dollar to AFRICARES, and 92 cents of that dollar goes to the people. That's one of the highest percentages of any charitable organization."

I remind her that Janet Jackson recently donated proceeds from her two sold-out engagements at New York City's Madison Square Garden to the AMERICARES charity organization to benefit Rwandan relief. On this subject, Patti has plenty to say.

"AMERICARES is a very white, right-wing organization with a handful of Democrats thrown in for tokenism, as was evidenced by them being out in front of Janet's show with their American flags looking like the Young Caucasian Republicans."

Patti is also quick to point out that the money Janet donated would only fund one cargo plane full of food. And, according to a relief worker interviewed on a New York City news broadcast, one cargo plane is like "an eyedropper in an ocean."

"I don't say any of this to put down what Janet did. I'm hoping that her high visibility effect is gonna make other blacks who have high visibility get in the mix. Because everybody's sitting around going 'Well, where the hell is Cosby and Eddie Murphy, and where is Miss Oprah and Miss Whitney, and where are all these high profile black folks? What is their problem?"

Again, Patti points to this country's obsession with high-profile tabloitation.

"We have to have an agenda that transcends that nonsense. And that is certainly one of the real issues. We're all worried about whether or not O.J. was getting a fair shake, and millions of our folks were busy dying every second over there. That's where I'm coming from. And I'm sure that's where Janet was coming from, too. I'm also sure that, as a hands-on relief worker over there, it would be very easy to feel that a cargo plane full of food is an eyedropper in an ocean. But, I'll tell you, if I was one of the people who got one of them sandwiches, [laughs] I don't think I'd be feeling that way."

When Patti breaks it down, she really breaks it down. And her charitable nature doesn't end with her global concerns for AIDS and Rwanda. She serves as the spokesperson for Black Adoption Services in San Francisco and is also preparing to begin the process of adopting her first child.

"When I was asked to be the spokesperson, I told them on one condition: that they help me with my adoption situation which they promised they would. This is something that I've been thinking about doing for a long time and finally made the decision to do it

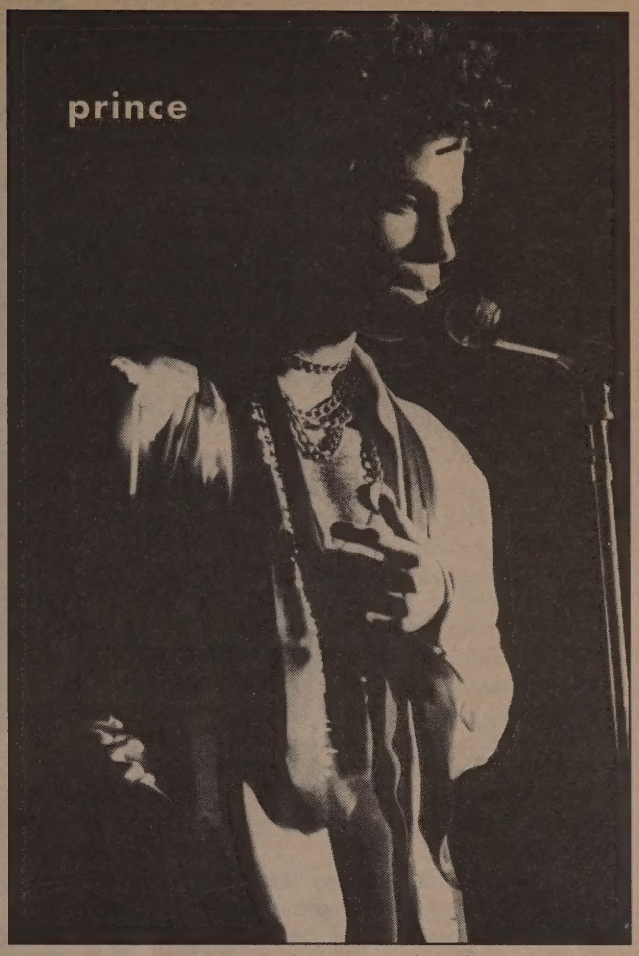
"I held off because my schedule is so hectic and crazy. But I woke up one day and realized I can't let that be an excuse. I do anything else I want to do. So, why in the world can't I find a way to help somebody who looks like me hopefully grow up and be able to have a better life than they otherwise would have had?"

She also points to her age (44), her single status and the fact that she has dedicated her entire life to being in the music business as deciding factors.

"Like every woman in this condition, I woke up one morning and went- 'Ahhh!' So, the man is not forthcoming although there is an All Points Bulletin out for that! But in the meantime, I'm still a woman. I can still be a parent. And I know I'll make a heck of a good mother."

She also makes one heck of a good album as evidenced on her latest, THAT SECRET PLACE. This album crosses so many different musical boundaries, it's no wonder her record label, GRP (primarily a jazz label) was a bit daunted as to exactly how to market the project. But Patti dismisses any notion of these difficulties.

"I'm very much against the whole idea of categorizing music. I hate that there's jazz and classical and R&B. And now we've added more categories—Adult Contemporary and New Adult Contemporary and Urban and City Urban and Country Urban and Rap and Black Rap and Mulatto Rap. It's ridiculous. The bottom line is- it's all music. And music is music. Some of it I like and



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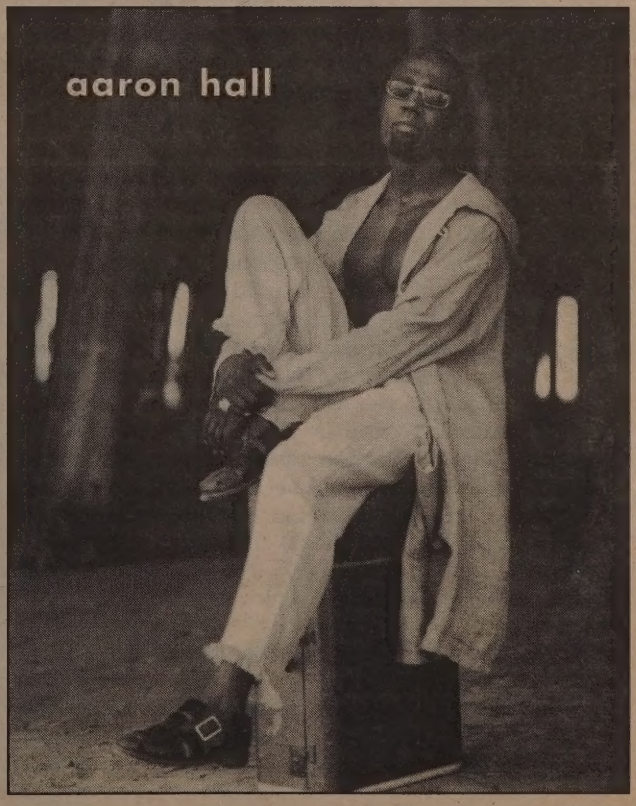

photo by michael haber

some of it I don't."

As to her eclectic career which has taken her from being a solo artist to a background artist and back to a solo career, Patti says, "I've never had the kind of ego which required me being out front as much as it required me paying my rent! I just sort of go where the fair winds blow me."

And may those Zephyr Winds keep on blowing strong.

BLACK MEN UNITED: AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON

Black Men United, an all-star group of 42 of today's hottest R&B male vocalists including Brian McKnight, Tony Toni Tone, Boyz II Men, Tevin Campbell, R. Kelly, El DeBarge, Gerald Levert, Al B. Sure, Aaron Hall and After 7, to name more than a few, was a concept brainstormed by Mercury Records president Ed Eckstine and film director Doug McHenry for the lead single on the soundtrack to McHenry's directorial debut, "Jason's Lyric" (in theaters now). The song, titled "U Will Know," is produced by McKnight and features Lenny Kravitz on guitar. All proceeds from the sale of this uplifting, positive groove will be donated to charity and the song is dedicated to peace as the video notes that "Homicide is the leading cause of death among young black males." Kudos to Mercury Records, Doug McHenry and the young gentlemen who participated in this worthwhile project.

PRINCE ON THE COME

"Cool funk, hot soul, smoky jazz, sizzling rock, topped off with provocative poetry. No borders, no rules. Can't let taboos stand in our way. A release of inhibitions, a swift kick in the ass 2 the politics of repression."

So goes the description of the Artist Formally Known As Prince's latest album, COME (Warner Bros.) a collection of ten one-word titled, sexually explicit, hot-under-the-collar-and-steaming-between-the-legs songs that have apparently been sitting in a vault somewhere waiting for just the right release time.

Billed as the last Warner Bros. studio recording of the artist before his infamous name change, COME exhibits his usual brilliant blending of every imaginable musical style in a hard-edged quilt of sex (oral and otherwise), masturbation, cunnilingus, fellatio—you name it, it's in there—with a little social consciousness, love and sexist chauvinism thrown in for good measure.

As the title song's recurring lyric states, "Come! I wanna fuck you, baby. Come! I wanna suck you, baby." And, then there's the album's closer, "Orgasm" which features a few guitar licks and some other indistinguishable background noises with a woman reaching a detailed moaning-and-groaning climactic orgasm as the Prince-meister himself cheers her on. Simulated or not (and you really can't tell), this is the stuff that wet dreams are made of.

THE WINANS KEEP ON WINNIN'

The award-winning gospel-R&B-Pop duo BEBE & CECE WINANS is back on the scene with their fifth album titled, RELATIONSHIPS (Capital Records). Reviewed in last month's SBC, the project is a definite don't-miss as the brother-sister team remains one of the most accomplished and consistently stellar musical acts on the market. In this fickle industry of changing fads and fashions, BeBe & CeCe are a welcome calm in the eye of the confused storm.

photo by robert zuckerman

AARON HALL: BEFORE AND AFTERBIRTH

Besides his laudatory participation in the above-mentioned Black Men United project, Aaron Hall has plenty more to smile about these days. His last single, "I Miss You," spent five weeks atop the R&B singles chart, and his album THE TRUTH (Silas/ MCA) is quickly approaching platinum status. Also, the video for "I Miss You" was hugely popular, although its cryptic images of a woman dying during childbirth followed by Hall and his newborn visiting the mother's grave are a bit melodramatic and uneven (to say the very least). And the singer has a new video due any minute that promises to have "another dramatic story line" in the style of "I Miss You." Hmmm, we can hardly wait. □

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The South Bay Lesbian, Gay and Bi Community Center
2009-A Artesia Bl.

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Menagerie
3581 University

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Resource Center
University of California at Riverside
228 Commons c/o Division of Enrollment Mgmt.
2108 Hinderaker Hall

ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

Chosen Books of Michigan
120 W. 4th St.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Lambda Community Center
1931 "L" Street

Mirage
603 15th St.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

A Different Light Books
489 Castro St.

Bahses
625 O'Ferrell

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Peacock Alley
1271 University Ave.
(Hillcrest)

Gay and Lesbian Community Center
3916 Normal

Sterling's Place USA
3317 1/2 Meade

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Beyond The Closet Books
1501 Belmont Ave.

SILVERLAKE (LOS ANGELES), CALIFORNIA

Body Builders Gym
2516 Hyperion Ave.

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN

Sons and Daughters Books
20715 Southfield Rd.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Left Bank Books
399 N. Euclid

VENICE, CALIFORNIA

Roosterfish
1302 Abbot Kinney Bl.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Lambda Rising Books
1625 Connecticut Ave. NW

Impact D.C.
300 I St. NE Suite 300

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

The World8
935 Santa Monica Bl.

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8853 Santa Monica Bl.

Unicorn Bookstore
8940 Santa Monica Bl.

Pleasure Chest
7733 Santa Monica Bl.

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8911 Santa Monica Bl.

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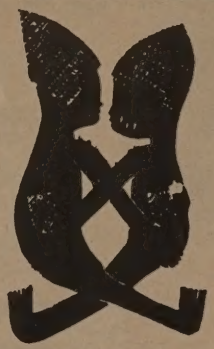

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MAN-MEET

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT.

NOW HERE'S WHERE IT IS.

TO RESPOND TO A SPECIFIC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AD, MAKE NOTE OF THE FOUR DIGIT BOX NUMBER FOLLOWING THE AD. THEN CALL 1-900-844-4SBC (4722) AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS. OR CALL 1-900-844-4SBC (4722) TO BROWSE THROUGH OUR HUGE SELECTION OF LOCAL VOICE ADS. YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER. ALL CALLS ARE $1.45 PER MINUTE/$1.95 FOR THE FIRST MINUTE. 1-900-844-4SBC CAN BE ACCESSED FROM MOST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA CODES.

HOT GOLDEN BROWN TOP BODY BUILDER seeks hot hairy-ass bottom body builder. Blacks or Puerto Ricans only. If you are hot, hairy, horny and a freak, leave a message. Box # 1190

ROMANTIC BROTHER WANTING TO MEET SOMEONE REAL. Me: 29 y.o., 5' 11", nice looking Brother. I'm strong, kind-hearted, sensitive and self-assured. Reaching out to another Brother who's real, who wants a lover, but has the patience to gain a friend first. You: A nice looking Brother, mature, with same interests. Box # 1189

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GOOD HEAD FROM ATTRACTIVE, MATURE BLACK MAN, light skin, 6', 175 lbs. I want to meet top man to service on a regular basis. Box # 3033

NIGGAZ ONLY. No wan'na be bitches, fat motherfuckers, bathhouse hoes, skinny or fuck limited people. Us: sexy big dick niggaz. U: fine, deep juice booty niggaz with warm mouths and long, thick tongues. Leave your number so we can fuck you down. Box # 2077

ARE YOU TIRED OF WATCHING LOVE BOAT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH A DEEP THROAT? I'm 33, handsome and I orally submit. I love to suck a masculine black man's dick. So just kick back, relax, feel aloft cause this black man won't stop sucking until your dick gets soft. Box #1241

HANDSOME BLACK PRINCE, 5' 8", 157 lbs., toned, healthy HIV+, educated, N2 travel, music, parties, skiing, art, cars, positiveness, much love. Well adjusted, comical, in tune with life. You be 5' 9" to 6' 1", 150 lbs. to 170 lbs., 25-35 y/o, top, hung, together brother. Box # 1104

BGM, 24, WELL-ENDOWED TOP. I'm slim, masculine build, 6' 2", 180 lbs. I Seek someone 6' or taller who is very masculine but loves to get fucked. For friendship or possible relationship. Box # 1094

AFRO-CARIBBEAN HIP HOP LOVER seeking Black, Latino, Homeboy or Cholo type top men for dating. Me: 5' 9", 140 lbs. 34 y.o., into music travel, romance. Box # 1133

ATTRACTIVE, AFFECTIONATE, SENSITIVE AND SERIOUS 29 Y.O. GBM, 6'2", 200 lbs, looking to have a friend for fun, possible relationship. (Blacks only). I'm a total bottom. U.B. total top, 25-45, in shape. No fems please. Box # 1096

I WANT TO GET FUCKED by a black man with a big dick. I am a 30 year old slim, handsome black man, 5' 8", 150 lbs. Call me. Box # 1115

GBM CHOCOLATE FLORIDA MAN 5' 6", 150 lbs., endowed front and back, wants GBM to kick it with. Leave a message and tell me what you want. No fems pls. Box # 1199

ROMANTIC CUTE GBM 22, 5' 10", HIV-, in shape top ISO cute in shape warm romantic, caring gay black, latin, Cuban or Puerto Rican male 21-30, HIV- bottom for warm friendship/relationship. N2 movies, dancing and walks on the beach. Are you out there? No fems or fats. Box # 1147

CARAMEL COMPLEXIONED MALE, MID 20'S, PROFESSIONAL. Mississippi native, down to earth attitude. ISO special friend to spend time with, 5' 9" and above with nice build (legs especially). College student into reading, basketball, bowling, gym and music. Want to have some fun time? MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!!!!!! Box # 3042

HANDSOME BLACK GAY COUPLE, one 6' 1", 180 lbs., 30 years old. One 5' 10", 150 lbs., 31 years old. Seeking handsome, sexy black male for threesome. No fems please. Be straight acting and versatile. Box # 1107

DO YOU WANT A GOOD PIECE OF ASS? If you're hung 8" or more, I will give you the best fuck of your life. Total top men only. Box # 1158

SEXY ATTRACTIVE BRAZILIAN 5'11", 164 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair, bubble butt, in shape, 35 years old, HIV-, ISO masculine guys in shape, BB smooth & bubble butt A+++, educated, into reality who still believes in LOVE. TRY ME! Box # 1232

NOT LOOKING FOR A STAR! Is there no one left out there uncomplicated enough to enjoy a simple blow-job? Is there no one realistic enough to realize everyone is not a jock or drop-dead beautiful and/or horse hung? If so, men of color, this 45 year old med. brown, 5' 6", 150 lbs. guy would like to give you a long, wet kiss where it counts. Just kick back and enjoy. No reciprocation necessary. U must B clean, no drugs, pros, fats,

games, head trips. Prefer sml/avg size cocks. Uncut A+. My place or?—Days & some eves—L.A., Inglewood area. Box # 1012

ATTRACTIVE 30 YEAR OLD AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE ISO A LEROY OR MOHAMMED TYPE. A Devin McCoy physique is a plus. An "At the Beach" mentality is a must. Biff's need not apply. Box # 1168

"SOME DAY HE'LL COME ALONG, THE MAN I LOVE. And he'll be big and strong, the man I love." Me: 29, 5' 7" college student into jazz vocalist. YOU: 10-35, masculine, honest and sexy. Box # 1074

AFRICAN AMERICAN. I'm looking for an African American male 25-35, with a positive attitude. I'd like to get to know you and you get to know me, have a nice romantic dinner and do a lot of talking. I'm very attractive. 5' 8", 150 lbs. and I love picnics, jogging, boating and reading. I hope we can really make wild passionate love when we get to know each other. Box # 1051

SEX AND ROMANCE. Very Good looking Egyptian, 5'11", 165 lbs, 29 years old, is looking for an attractive black top. I am a loving, sensitive and affectionate person. I have a wild fantasy of being with a black man. Let me share it with you. You'll love 'it'. Box # 1239

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BGM, 35, MASCULINE, MUSCULAR, 5'11", 170 lbs., seeks well-endowed GBM bottoms between 30-45 for sexual friction and casual friendship. Box # 1169

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP. Me: BGM, 5' 10", 160 lbs., brown skin, and aim to please. You: 23-47, Black or Latin. Let's meet and see if we connect. Box # 1197

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED ATTRACTIVE/SENSITIVE 30 Y.O. HIV- GBM in search of a cultured, professional, HIV-, masculine GBM, 29-40 who enjoys good conversation, quiet dinners and church. Please, no drugs or games. Box # 1204

WEST INDIAN GBM looking for Good looking GBM you: Spiritual, Career-minded, Workout, Intelligent, Mature, Sexy, Healthy, 5' 10" +, top, 28-35. No fems, fats, cheap, drugs. I am 27, 5' 6", 178 lbs., workout, strong headed, outgoing, light skin. I like walks on the beach, long drives, quiet times, good conversation. Friendship or possible more. Box # 4033

TIRED OF CRUIZE SPOTS LIKE PARKS, BOOKSTORES, ETC.? Cum and let's all 20 of us do it together and fuck the night away. We get together once a month. Tell all your fit, in-shape and muscular friends to cum join in. Leave a message with your phone #. Box # 1135

GWM, 60, FORMER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, seeks affectionate man for conversation and cuddling. Also want a travel companion. No smokers. Cheerful nature essential. Any age or race acceptable. I like people who enjoy life and want to explore new areas, ideas, cultures. Box # 1208

ME: PHYSICALLY ATTRACTIVE; mentally sharp; spiritually evolving. You: ALL MAN. Box # 1166

ROUGHNECK BLACK MALES WANTED. Hot bottom seeks masculine top. I'm 26, 5'5", 145 lbs., nice looking black male, cute ass, looking for friend/relationship. Will travel/trade photos. Leroy. Box # 3031

30 Y.O. FUNNY, ATTRACTIVE, MASCULINE GBM, 5' 11", 170 lbs., 9 thick, cut, pretty inches, bubble butt, nice body, versatile seeks BGM, 5' 11" or taller, masculine, 175-200 lbs., 7 1/2 to 9 inches, nice looking, no fats or fems, looking to hook up. Get with me. Box # 1215

VERY HOT AND HORNY, GOODLOOKING GWM BOTTOM, 5' 11", 185 lbs., 45, HIV-, available to service you safely and discreetly. I have a great mouth, lips and tongue and tight, receptive rear, am very flexible, and open to your particular turn-on. Muscular men of color only! Bodybuilders a plus! All serious answered. Box # 2248

ATTENTION. THIS ISN'T A SEX AD. IT'S A ME AD I'm a 31 y.o. 6' 1" 170 lbs. GWM who really likes sex. I like activities or just doing nothing—it depends on my mood. UB relaxed, fitting, fun, 25-45, and have all the usual parts in good working condition. J.D. Box # 1119

CUTE FUN-LOVING GBM, 21 seeks pretty boys 18-25, any race, for friendship, fun times, exciting night life, great sex. Box # 4051

EXTREMELY BLOND GWM, 195 lbs., moustache, VGL, masculine, 8", versatile, hithy, HIV+, car freak, designer, seeks GBM, mature, any race, masculine, professional, educated, hung, versatile, fit Spike Lee to Bo Jackson physique. Be sincere, honest, humorous, N/S, no drugs. I'm in Orange County but will travel to L.A., Long Beach, San Diego areas +. Box # 3026

ATTRACTIVE BGM in search of professional, masculine BGM with a charitable personality, able to love me the right way. Mind game players need not apply. Box # 2059

BIG BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOMS! Me and a host of bubble butt in-shape masculine bottoms would like to invite big pipe dick brothuhs (only) to our monthly fuckfest. Come and fuck us down till we get raw. Answer this ad and you will be fucking some of the best ass in town. We are not and do not want fats, fems, or anything not black. Box # 2151

NON-STEREOTYPICAL NATIVE ITALIAN WHO LOVES TO FUCK AND BE SUCKED. Me: 38 years old, 5' 2", 128 lbs., well built. You: Preferably GBM and insatiable. Fat & fem plz abstain. Box # 3014

HANDSOME, HAIRY BLACK BOTTOM seeks 6 ft. 2" or taller athletically-built top for friendship, fun and/or a possible relationship. Masculine only. 9" A+. No fats, fems please. Box # 1236

MIKE. NATIVE AMERICAN WHO ANSWERED MY AD. Please call again. Phone number was incomplete!! Box # 1012

GAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE, HIV+, 28 years old, 145 lbs., 5' 11" tall, very deep dark complexion, with a slender but tone body build. Would like to meet Gay Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Latin men between the ages of 25-35 for a monogamous slow romantic relationship, quality time and dating. Box # 1228

SPECIAL FOR GENTLE BM. Loving, kind, romantic, GM, tall, slender, Mediterranean complexion, 49, intelligent, multi-lingual, well-read, traveled to Africa; interests include the arts, photography, music, (to name a few). HIV-. Available for slim to average built BM seeking uniquely creative human being. Looks don't count, character does. Box # 1231

I AM A FUN LOVING GUY WHO LOVES LIFE ITSELF and enjoys good times and loves to meet new people. Box # 1174

A CUTE LATINO WANTED BY GOOD-LOOKING 30 Y.O.LATINO GAY MAN, 140 lbs., 5' 7", into gym, swimming, school, movies, with experience, HIV-, responsible and educated. U same. Outdoors be a gentleman, indoors be wild. no fems, fats or drugs. Call for friendship or more. First timers O.K. Box # 1089

BLACK MALE, 6' 1", 197 LBS. I'm 23 years old, looking for a dominant top to go to the movies and amusement parks with, between 22-35. Also, be at least 6' tall. Looking for friendship & possible relationship. Box # 4052

STOP! DO YOU WANT A GOOD PIECE OF ASS? Fuck buddy wanted by handsome BLK man in search of a man with a N.I.N. or +. U must be masculine & lean. We could also work out at Bally's Health Club in Montebello. Safe and serious only. Box # 1230

GWM, 34, 6'2", 180 LBS. MASCULINE, STRAIGHT ACTING looking for muscular Black man 35-50, uncut a +, to date & more. Movies, concerts, quiet dinners. Box # 3030

GBM, 31, 6' 1", 145 LBS. HOPELESS ROMANTIC, fun-loving and caring. Enjoys quiet romantic nights and cuddling. Seeks serious-minded individual for fun, friendship and/or possible relationship. HIV+. Serious-minded only. Box # 1186

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL WHITE MALE, 47, 5' 10", 163 lbs., seeks muscular BM for dating, fun & romance, NS, ND. Box # 2069

LOOKING FOR A MASCULINE BLACK MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS, 25 TO 40, 5' 9" and above, attractive, personable and about something. Looking for a top. Me: I'm a 30 year old black man, 5' 8", 190 lbs., well-built, masculine, very handsome, sensual eyes and a dashing smile. I'm into poetry, jazz, the arts, sports, life and willing to learn what you want to teach. So if you know what you want, if you want someone who is true and honest, who will make you laugh when you frown, who will rub your body down when you've had a bad or good day, and who will be there when no one else is, look no more. I'm all that plus more. But you got to make that call, so call me. "Words are nothing if they don't mean something." Box # 2065

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BLACK FREAK REQUIRED BY MATURE WHITE MALE. Looking for a freak to love who will return that love in a willing surrender as the Leather Lover of Master Michael in word, in deed, in gear, in character with a success Purpose to infinity. And so it is. Promptly call. Peace. Box # 1209

BEAUTIFUL, LIGHT BRONZE MAN, 29, 5' 11", 200 lbs., and quite a lover ISO a very real person, not afraid of himself, willing to explore. This Piscean performer is engaged into life as a trans-universal trip to be fully enjoyed, meeting beautiful people along the way and continually open to possibility. Box # 1162

FUCK BUDDY WANTED. Hot White Buck, 6' 2", 205 lbs., 46" C, 33" W, 17" A, Bottom, Chunky Clean White Bubble Butt, Masculine, 39, Big Thighs, Seeks TOPS over 35, who are aggressive, Dominant, Safe, freaky and Know what they like. Box # 1221

MATURE, AFFECTIONATE BLACK MALE is seeking well endowed male of any race, 6 ft. tall, ages 23-35, HIV negative. Must enjoy music (classical and jazz), theatre, fine dining, reading and travel. Box # 1149

ATHLETIC WM 32 SEEKS BM 27-35. Masculine 5'9", 165 clean cut, professional, HIV-, Christian, seeks friend/lover. I enjoy movies, sports, R & B, gospel & romance. You are GBM 5'10" or less, masculine, well built/slim, HIV-, secure & easy going. No drugs/no smoke. Let's talk. Box # 2997

GOODLOOKING GBM, 35 Y/O STRAIGHT ACTING, 190 lbs., 5' 6" and very versatile with the right Black man. Seeks very well hung BLK/Bi or GBM, I prefer the dark ones, but others are welcome. If you're straight acting and into fun, sex and sports, give me a call. I'm looking for a mate. Box # 1170

ORANGE COUNTY/LONG BEACH SEEKING GBM. I'm a GWM, 5' 11", 160 lbs., masculine, straight acting, professional, easy-going, 35, versatile. Seeking a GBM regular-type guy, masculine, friendly, romantic, top a plus, possible relationship. Box # 1042

YOUNG HOT AFRO-STUD LOOKING FOR HOT TONGUE! 25, 5'4", 127 lbs. I

love getting my ass rimmed by a HOT AFRICANO OR LATINO TONGUE. ISO guys who love rimming, but DON'T LIKE having it done to them. Call me. Box # 1157

30 YEAR OLD HALF WHITE, HALF HISPANIC BOTTOM seeks professional GBM top, semi to good physical shape 29 to 45 years old for special monogamous 1 on 1 relationship. Penis size unimportant. I like cute carressable butts. Box # 2067

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GBM WANTED BY GAM, 22, 180, 5' 11", straight-acting, HIV-. UB: 22-30, fit, stocky or muscular build, masculine, HIV-, sincere, for friendship or relationship. Box # 4039

ROMANTIC, SPIRITUAL, GOOD-LOOKING, FUN-LOVING, INTELLIGENT 42 yr old seeks hot black man. Box # 1160

BM ONLY. A 32 year old, very handsome, well defined body (6' 3"), educated (EDD), professional, very spirited who will tolerate cigarettes only, seeks a companion with similar qualifications. Box # 1150

TOP LOVER WANTED for serious, long lasting relationship. Must be masculine, hairy and very well endowed. No smoker, no drugs, lite drinker, 40 to 50 y/o. Me: 48 y/o, very masculine, hard worker, total bottom, 5' 10", 180 lbs., hazel eyes, lite complexion hot latin/Austrian ready to commit to the right guy. Box # 4026

WM ENJOYS COMPANY OF HARD-BODY MODEL TYPE 22 to 30. I'm 52, into antiques & all beautiful things. Jack. Box # 1151

BM TOP LIKES BM BOTTOM—to slide into—must be clean. No smoking, no drugs. Hung is a ++. Safe is the only way. D.P. Box # 1004

30ISH, SENSITIVE GBM seeking a friend/lover who's intelligent and enjoys theorizing, dialoguing and good hot safe sex. Box # 1085

DISCREET PROFESSIONAL BLACK MALE, small frame who loves super muscular, super chunky and supper chubby Black guys weighing from 290 lbs. to 350 lbs. with super, super big arms and super, super big thighs, for friendship. Box # 1222

NEW ADVENTURE IN ALL MALE FUCKING! Black trade (masculine, all shades, hung and versatile) in all positions willing to do whatever it takes to get a piece of U (if you are tall, black, masculine and toned). We want you and your click to come together with ours for a group interlude. Leave a message!. Box # 3022

GBM, 23, INTELLIGENT/GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION COLLEGE SENIOR, looking for GBM in good shape, great body and very intelligent, ready to meet and enjoy good company. Box # 1177

SENSUAL, SINCERE, STABLE, SAFE, EASY-GOING, GOOD-LOOKING, VERSATILE, GWM, HIV-, 6', 190 lbs., 45, hairy chest, moustache, greying hair, into gym, health, music, outdoors, art, personal growth, intelligent conversation, romance, mutual respect and lots more, seeks a black man in very good shape and health. Box # 2075

BICYCLE/CAMP BUDDY: Single GWM, 6' 1", 195, HIV-, 36: likes outdoors, travel, touching, intelligence and playfulness; no smoke/drugs/gay bar scene. Seeking buddy of any race, age or cock size for affectionate & tactile friendship. To share desert/mountain camping/day-hike/bicycling trips & emotional and physical male bonding. Box # 1224

EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE BLACK MALE, 23, 5'6", 140 lbs. Very proportioned with a very smooth tight nice build. With the most beautiful eyes. Seeks very masculine, attractive, well-built and healthy body builder type man from 27-45. You will not be disappointed. Box # 2060

GBM,33, HANDICAPPED. Adventurous and spunky. Seeks serious-minded, independent individual for friendship and/or possible relationship. HIV+. Box # 1188

BIG GOOD LOOKING WHITE BODY-BUILDER/MUSICIAN seeks relationship with big Black man who likes being on top. I'm 6 ft. 210 lbs., hairy, nice smooth bubble butt. You be muscular/ chunky/ thick/ masculine. Please call. Box # 1011

WHITE BOY, 32, 5' 11", 175 LBS., muscular, lean, bubble butt, bottom, seeks 6' +, 200 lbs. +, strong, dominant BLK master for butt discipline & booty pounding. HIV-, safe sex, serious. I'm yours. Box # 4048

TAKE ME. BG MASCULINE BOTTOM, good-looking, 28, 5'9", 155 lbs., looking for good-looking, aggressive Top, 25-35, at least 5' 9", hung thick and long and knows what to do with it. Box # 2027

WANTED, ROUGHNECK NIGGAZ. We want you to fuck the shit out of us. You need to be 7 1/2 or bigger, well-built and have a good over-sexed attitude. We do not want nothin' niggaz with nothin' to offer (short dick motherfuckers with attitudes who won't get fucked). Box # 1124

IF YOU NEED A FRIEND I may be just what you're looking for. I believe that the basis for any romantic relationship is friendship. I'm 31 year old, 5' 11", 159 lbs., black and considered attractive. I have a functioning brain and varied interest. I'm sexually versatile. Race is not important. Substance is. Box # 1084

HANDSOME & ROMANTIC BROTHER, 30 year old, 6 ft., 165 lbs., HIV-, seeking romantic Brother in his 30's for candle light dinners, theatre, quiet evenings of invigorating conversation and much more. Box # 2028

LET'S NUT SIMULTANEOUSLY. Warble as we ejaculate simultaneously in each other's mouth, quaff my sultry testicular extract as we awaken innovative passions never depicted by others. We will broadly perforate your expecting aperture. Our utensils of fervor will be enmeshed in your posterior frame tunneling ardently for a far-reaching potent interval of coitus until we all bust a nut simultaneously. If this is your forte, give us notice. Box # 1137

PROUD GBM 30ish, 5' 9", 185 lbs., looking to commit mind and body to a sensitive, versatile relationship. If you're not afraid of a passionate, secure relationship, contact Kinney. Box # 1013

FAT & HORNY TOP Heavy-set SBM, 5'11", 235 lbs., 6 1/2". I am a top who enjoys going out to movies & a good meal. UB masculine, SBM, 5' 10" or above, around 190 lbs., thick or muscular. No queens, excessive obesity or non-blacks. Box # 2151

I'M AN ATTRACTIVE BLACK MALE WITH A BIG DICK who loves to fuck and suck. ISO attractive males of any race who need accommodating. Box # 4032

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING REAL? Healthy, masculine GBM, 6' 3" 220 lbs. and handsome. Seeks honest gay male 23-36 for friendship and possible relationship. I enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, plays, musicals, concerts, candle light dinners and romantic walks on the beach. Please, no fems. Serious callers only. Box # 1084

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GM, 25, 6 FT, 190 lbs., blue eyes, honest, intelligent & fun. Seeking GM looking for a relationship. Box # 4024

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR COMMITMENT? So am I. B/M, 48, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A black or white top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, home-life and stability. Box # 1001

GM, 26, 6', 180 LBS. Honest, intelligent and romantic. Love to enjoy life to the fullest. Seeking GM (top) for relationship. Box # 2049

WM, 48, DISTINGUISHED LOOKING, versatile professional, seeking honest, sincere, super hung, versatile, short (5'3" and under) BM for fun and possible relationship. Allen. Box # 1002

ATTRACTIVE BGM TOP, 24 seeks very discreet, masculine men, athletic and well built; preferably a bottom. no fems or fats. Age 18-30. Box # 1015

BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER. Good-looking Gay blond male wants to please that sexy Afro-American male—bi, straight or gay! Call me—You'll like! Box # 4055

VERSATILE ROMANTIC, 33 year old openly gay, attractive, masculine dark skin African American high school teacher, 5' 11", 160 lbs. Into theater, literature, candle light dinners at home, Oleta Adams and versatile, romantic lovemaking ISO love. Serious only please. Box # 1118

HOT BGM wants to make love to you all night long. I'm 31 y.o., 6'2", 200 lbs, hung 9" and cut. You be 21-35, hot all night bottom for good times and long rides. Call me. Box # 2032

HOT BLACK MALE TOP ISO MASCULINE BOTTOMS 18-20, for dating, possible relationship. I'm in my early 20's, 5' 11", 190 lbs. You be more or less the same. Box # 1127

MASCULINE 39 Y.O. SEEKS SIMILAR. Blk, 200 lbs., 6 Ft., moustache, ponytail, into gym, kids, love, friendship, sex, feet, film and self-knowledge. Be real, honest, masculine and open—and I could be had. HIV, white, Hispanic okay. Box # 1024

GBM, 30 5' 9", 220 lbs. Enjoys traveling, dancing, weight lifting, movies & cooking. Seeks friends for fun times. Possible relationship. Call & leave a message. I will respond. Box # 2045

IN SEARCH OF MY EQUAL 28 year old GBM, 6' 160 lbs., attractive, intelligent, professional, seeks GBM in touch with himself, attractive, intelligent, professional, 5' 9" or taller. weight proportional, between 25 and 40. Serious callers call Mike. Box # 2047

I LOVE A BIG STICK OF DARK/LIGHT CHOCOLATE. Me: Hot Latino bottom ready to play. 35 years old, 5'6", 140 lbs. You: In-shape very masculine top. Looks/Age not important. Big cock and no B.S. attitude are. Box # 1030

BLACK MAN, 33 years old, 5'9", 160 lbs, works out, loves people and life, HIV-. Box # 1063

ATTRACTIVE AND VERY SEXY CARAMEL COLORED BLACK MALE nice body, nice eyes and nice pair of lips that can make the right MAN happy! I'm looking for someone who loves kissing and who has a clean bubble butt for tossing all night. Interested? Call me! Box # 1032

SEEKING BOLD BEAUTIFUL BLACK MASCULINE MUSCULAR MALE by sexy professional athletic WM 31 y/o, 6' 0", 175 lbs. No beggars. Must be sincere, dedicated, socially committed. It's going on here. Let's bring it together. Box # 2050

WHITE MALE, 30, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES looking for relationship-minded black male age 30-45. I want to meet someone who likes to read, go to movies and spend quality time at home. Tired of meeting men in bars. Will answer all. Box # 2029

SEXY BLACK BOTTOM seeks a very aggressive top who really enjoys fucking. One night you'll be hooked. Best piece of ass you never had. Satisfaction promised. Box # 1159

BM LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OVER 50 for friendship & more. No drugs, straight acting, loves travel and workouts in the gym. Be sincere. Box # 2038

BGM, NICE FACE, NICE DICK, GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. I'm only as good as the man I'm with. BGM Top, 5' 9", 145 lbs. seeks BGM in shape bottom with a nice face, dick and ass for sex. I like all shapes and sizes but not overweight. Hot, safe and hassle free. Box # 1105

FANTASTIC IMPORT Very attractive European, smart, 34, 5' 10", muscular, 180 lbs., discreet, seeks tall, intelligent, very muscular, massive black body-builder, over 220 lbs., for friend.Call. Box # 1006

BLACK MEN ONLY. I am 5'7", 198 lbs and full of love. I need a clean, no smoking, no drugs, masculine proud black man. Someone that will treat me right, someone that will make love to me as a man and as a friend. I like music, the outdoors and people. If you are well hung that's a +++. If you are 50% top and 50% bottom, I have 8 inches of hard meat for you. Safe is the only way. Box # 1004

5'9", 175 LBS. AND AVAILABLE. I enjoy physical activities, movies, music and quiet moments. Presently studying at the University, but would like to spend quality time with someone special. You the same; let's discuss the matter. No phonies need inquire. Box # 1021

LIGHT SKIN BLACK looking for muscular black men. Ray. Box # 1041

28 Y.O. GBM, 6' 160 LBS, attractive, intelligent, professional, seeks GBM in touch with himself, attractive, intelligent, professional, 5' 9" or taller, weight proportional, between 25 and 40. Serious callers, call Mike. Box # 2047

HOT AND HANDSOME BLACK MALE TOP, 29, 6' 2". I like fucking. I'm equipped to service you. Black attractive bottoms in need of good loving done the right way. Call. Be mine tonight. Let's talk. Box # 2026

GWM, 45, LOOKING FOR A DOMINANT TOP into spankings, enemas, dildos, butt plugs, whippings, caning, greek play safe. Discreet. Orange County. Long term preferred friendship. Master, Daddy. Box # 1046

21 YEAR OLD LATIN MALE into strong, muscular, tall masculine, Black man interested in sharing your time with a real person. I'm into movies, walks, talks and dancing. If this interests you, give me a call. Box # 1024

TWO STEPPIN URBAN COWBOY (GWM, bi/bl, 38, 5' 7", 153 lbs.) lookin to rope fun-lovin bronco for intelligent conversation, romantic intimacy, seductive dancin (all kinds), and rough-ridin sex. (I lead and follow). Other interests include: sports, the theatre, great coffee and Sunday mornins. The men I prefer to date and the man with whom I will ultimately unite is secure (no mixed-up, closeted, self-hatin, neurotic, homophobe for me), and takes care of his body. He is HIV negative, has a steady job, a car, loves to kiss, and is not afraid of words like commitment, takin-it-slow or fallin-in-love. Box # 3016

HOT BLACK MALE BOTTOM 5'9", 34 y.o., 150 lbs, in search of hot masculine top who is well endowed, 18-40 something for...(+). Box # 1022

LOOKING FOR GOOD HEAD? 42 year old black male, 5'6", 150 lbs., passable looks, F/A; No/GR. U B black, oriental, Hispanic, No African, Puerto Rican, Egyptian, any man of color. Over 6' tall or under 5' short & uncut a +. Cock size unimportant. U must B clean, no drugs, pros, fats or fems. My place or? Days & some evenings. Very, very discreet—UB2. U won't B sorry. L.A. area. No games, no head trips. I'M GOOD. Box # 1012

BGM. Let me hold you tight, if only for one night. Let me keep you near, to ease away your fear. I won't tell a soul, and no one has to know. Box # 2025

BGM, 32, LIGHT SKIN, LOOKING FOR A HOMEBOY TYPE. I been a top lately. Been feeling like I want to be on the bottom. Still, he has to be attractive and manly for a possible long term relationship. I like a man that is possessive and passionate with no games. Box # 1240

BM, 50 YEARS OLD WANTS SAME to love and respect & have fun with. Serious only. Box # 3011

BLACK MEN 35-55 ONLY. Are you domineering? Do You demand satisfaction? Then kick back & relax while this blue-eye 37 y.o. worships you. I'm eager to please, hungry & willing to crawl for it. Box # 1113

BLACK ATTRACTIVE PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGIATE STUDENT requests: rich (has money), physically fit (works out), 6 feet or taller, 25 or older black professional men for friendships or more. You won't be disappointed. Not looking for a sugar daddy, but someone to spend quality time with. Xaveyer. Box # 1003

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TRAVEL BUDDY WANTED ABOUT 18 years old for car shows, beaches and places of interest. Either a few hours or at times a few days at a time. Friendship first and then see what develops. Let's hear from you. I am white. Box # 2020

PASSIVE & PASSIONATE BOTTOM SEEKS AGGRESSIVE & PASSIONATE TOP who's 160 to 190 lbs., 5' 10" to 6' 2", 28" to 33" waist, hard 7 1/2" to 11" cock, 25 to 45 years old with round hammer butt. I am 5' 6", 140 lbs, 6 1/2" cock, 44 years old. I'm a medium brown BLK who desires any race or color. I love music, concerts & dancing. Box # 1178

MONOGAMOUS 1-MAN MAN. Great little package of European origin, gym-fit, muscular professional, Hollywood Hills; I'm safe, sane, romantic, sexy, very sensuous, 5' 7", 150 lbs., in my 50s. ISO relationship-minded, mature, healthy, another gym-fit, small frame monogamous man. Box # 2070

GBM, 42, 5' 7", 155 LBS., in shape, intel-

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ligent, handsome, confident, sensitive, honest and fun. I live in Palmdale. Seeking GM who is masculine, sensitive, not afraid of intimacy and commitment. Must be versatile, love to kiss, and willing to be close to another man. Box # 1216

HDSM BLK ROMANTIC seeks same. 6'2", 175 lbs., 35, HIV+, N2 music, dance, art, positiveness, love. ISO in shape brother with mind to match. Come get this. Sexy stud with slow hand call now. All serious calls answered. Box # 1000

AN ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS ADVOCATE. Down to earth, Southern, open minded, healthy HIV+ BGM, enjoys dancing, sports, outdoors, theatre, films, etc. Afrocentric, volunteer for different causes, believes in God. Enjoys meeting BGM w/similar or different interests for friendship or more. If you are true to self and not afraid to share your feelings, If you are a sincere, respectful, masculine brother, your response is appreciated. Box # 4017

LOOKING FOR BLACK MASCULINE MEN WITH LARGE, LEAN MANLY FRAMES AND BIG DICKS TO MATCH. (8" or more). This masculine, attractive, bald headed Brother wants to suck you all night. If you're real hot, you can sample this HOT Black ass. I'm 165 lbs., in shape. Box # 1185

IN YO' FACE. 27 Y.O. INTELLECTUAL GJM looking to meet sincere, affectionate and emotionally available GBM for friendship. Laguna Beach area. Box # 3023

LONELY SINCERE BLACK MAN, very straight acting and discreet. Looking for the same. I need to be loved. Must be straight acting and black. No fems! Help. I need to be loved! Box # 1064

ATTRACTIVE DARK SKIN 40 YEAR OLD BGM TOP, 5' 8", 145 lbs., well-endowed, cut, intelligent, romantic, HIV-,ISO an attractive, intelligent, HIV-, in shape, 5'6" - 5' 11" BGM bottom between 21-30 for sex and romance. Box # 1033

CUTE HEAVYSET HUGGABLE & LOVEABLE TEDDYBEAR 24. 5' 7 1/2" Bi B male, very spiritual, clean-cut & HIV-. That's a fact...ISO Bi GBM who is nice & goodlooking, for possible relationship, who's not afraid of honesty & truth in this life we live. Do I have any taker's?? Well if this sounds like you & you're 5' 8" and up, spiritual minded, HIV- & no drugs at all, 24-31 but not definitive, give me a call. His peace be with you. Peace. Box # 1219

GOODLOOKING 20 YEAR OLD GAM, Very cute. Seeks that very special, tall, slender, healthy, sexy, sensual older man who is intelligent, honest and financially secure. I enjoy the beach, volleyball, tennis, the outdoors, dining, movies and traveling. 42 or less only, unless you're an angel. Please call. Box # 4040

32 YEAR OLD BGM MOSTLY TOP BUT VERSATILE, HIV negative, 5'11", 160 lbs. called handsome by others, who seeks friendship, dating and romance from HIV negative, non-smoking gay man of any race who enjoys sports, athletics and the finer things in life. Box # 1043

WANT TO MEET BI & GAY COCKSUCKERS who love to service on a regular basis day or night. Looks unimportant. San Gabriel Valley cities and area. Box # 3043

TALL, SEXY BLACK ALL-MAN MAN, 30, looking for a sweet bottom who likes it done by somebody who knows what he's doing. Be hot, handsome and under 40. Box # 1088

SEEKING 25 TO 45 YEAR OLD GOOD-LOOKING HUNG TOP. I am a good-looking older black man, 5' 11", 159 lbs., with tight anus. Box # 1037

ATTRACTIVE AND HANDSOME AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE W/LIGHT COMPLEXION 25 y.o., seeks attractive men ages 18 to 30. I am versatile. You be bottom or top. You be African-American, Hispanic, Chinese, Japanese, French or Italian and hot. If you know you are good call my box. Box # 1086

MATURE, SENSITIVE, SENSE OF HUMOR and a 26 year old man with good taste who is 5' 10", 175 lbs. and a sweet chocolate color, looking for a fabulous top who is looking for a friend and maybe lover, plus more. No fems please. Box # 1170

BIG BLACK DICK LIKES TO FUCK. I'm a 25 yr. old dark skinned black man with 9 1/2 fat inches looking for a sweet bottom that likes it big, thick and slow. Box # 3002

HANDSOME ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 195 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

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VERY CUTE AND SEXY 22 YEAR OLD BGM TOP. 5'5", 150 lbs, HIV-, great kisser, well endowed, beautiful legs and an incredible butt. I enjoy exercising and maintaining an active lifestyle. You: 21-28 non-smoker. Please give me a call. Box # 3012

ALWAYS HARD AND READY UNCUT TOP. Hot 27 year old black stud with a 10" uncut dick looking for 18-35 year old bottoms. Box # 1136

REAL HANDSOME GWM SEEKING GBM TOP for safe play and friendship. I'm 37, 5' 10", 165, Brown/Blue, HIV-, good shape, great legs, passionate, sexy, sense of humor, sensual massages. You must be well hung, HIV-, muscular, masculine, 21-40, honest, aggressive, tall & fun. Hispanic ok. Box # 2079

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! Funny, attractive professional European GWM (27, 5'11", bl/br, 180 lbs.) looking to meet that special relationship-oriented GBM, 30-42 y.o. with pleasant looks, stable job, stable mind and heart of gold. Interests include theatre, Art films, good books and politics. No smokers/druggies/barflies please. Long Beach/Orange County area. Box # 1052

ATTRACTIVE BLACK AND HISPANIC, 21 YEARS OLD seeks sexy masculine, muscular, stable, professional black man 23 to 30 years old. Must be into art, movies, music and romantic times. Box # 1053

I AM 20 YRS. OLD, 5' 6", 175 LBS. & CUTE. I love talking, singing, dancing & acting. I am seeking a well hung Black or Latino male, 8" or more. I need a nice, masculine, Black or Latino male who is a great top, age 25-35. Call me! Box # 1136

AGGRESSIVE BOTTOM NEEDS AGGRESSIVE TOP. Hot aggressive bottom looking for a nasty top. 6', 160 lbs, hard body, good looking, 7 1/2 cut cock, nice hard butt, looking to get into some nice kinky sex. Give me a call. Box # 1053

HI, I'M THOMAS, I'M 31, 5' 7", 135 LBS. I'm a versatile bottom looking for top men. I'm seeking friendships & a possible relationship. The person I want to be with must be serious minded. Plan your future with me by leaving a message. Box # 2058

BLACK MALE. I'm 5'11, a young 41 who loves to get his cock sucked. I'm versatile and want to have a good time. Box # 1057

LOVE TO MAKE LOVE TO BGM. I'm looking for an attractive, in-shape BGM bottom who loves lovemaking from an attractive, well-hung older BGM. I'm in my early 40's, I'm 5'8, 145 lbs, 8", healthy and clean. Box # 1058

WELL HUNG BLACK GUY WANTS SEX. 27, BM looking to meet couples male/female or male/male for lots of sex. I'm hung thick and versatile. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. Box # 4024

BLACK MAN, 33 Y/O, 5' 9", 160 LBS works out, loves people and life. HIV-. Box # 1080

HOT AND HORNY TOP. Black man, 31, 5'11, 175 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, smooth toned body, big cut dick. Into good times, romance maybe. Box # 3000

EXTREMELY HANDSOME GBM BODYBUILDER, 30, TOP, sincere, wants to settle down, but not settle. Seeking BOTTOM any race. If you don't want to settle either, let's get together. You won't regret it. Box # 4029

ATTRACTIVE ATHLETIC BLONDE GWM, 36, 125 lbs., 5' 7" perceptive runner into the arts, seeks large, virile, aggressive, dark top, 30-40, who is sensitive, adventurous, sincere and muscular, for dating. Hairy a plus. Box # 3015

ROMANTIC GENTLEMEN ONLY. Attractive BM seeks attractive, sincere, straight acting gentleman between 25-40. I enjoy quality time along with passionate safe sex. Call if you fit this description. Box # 1058

BLACK MALE. 30, Smooth, good-looking, clean shaven, can be top or bottom, 8". Give me a call and tell me about yourself. Box #3003

EDUCATED, CULTURED 6' 2", 198 LBS GENTLEMAN 45 years old seeks mature professional 25-40 with similar physical and intellectual qualifications, interested in music, arts, exercise and totally mellow in the bedroom as well as the salon! HIV- or + OK. Romanticism essential. Box # 2055

ATTRACTIVE LIGHT SKIN BGM BOTTOM, 5' 9", 150 lbs., in search of muscular BGM top. Box # 1041

SERIOUS, AFFECTIONATE, MASCULINE, HEALTHY, PROFESSIONAL BGM 5' 10 1/2", 190 lbs. Motorcycle riding, camping, weight lifting, contact sports, movies and gardening a favorite. Seeks other BGM with similar interests between 40 and 60 for friendship and possible relationship. Box # 1076

IS THERE A TALL, INTELLIGENT, MASSIVE BLACK BODYBUILDER over 230 lbs. seeking a very attractive Euro-bodybuilder? If yes, I am yours: 34 y/o, 5' 10", muscular, 180 lbs., smart, discreet, reliable, clean-shaven, brown hair, nice bubble-butt. Speak French, English, Spanish. We could train together and I will teach you French. Merci' Beaucoup. Box # 1006

MONSTER SEX. 10" BGM monster meat looking for hot bottoms that can take it. Race don't matter. Leave a message. Box # 1131

EXCEPTIONAL MAN 30'S IS EVOLVED SPIRITUALLY 5' 9", 160 lbs. with hazel eyes and light brown hair. Smooth, slender, firm build, educated and intelligent. Healthy HIV+ with many interest. Romantically erotic, oral, versatile but predominately a bottom. ISO creating and sharing intimacies (mental, emotional and sexual). Box # 1143

AGGRESSIVE BOTTOM NEEDS AGGRESSIVE TOP. Hot aggressive bottom looking for a nasty top. 6', 160 lbs., hard body, good looking, 7 1/2" cock, nice hard butt, looking to get into some nice kinky sex. Give me a call. Box # 1053

ROMANTIC GENTLEMAN ONLY. Attractive dark skin BGM, 30, 5'8", 175 lbs., average build seeks an attractive, easy-going, considerate, sincere, discreet, straight acting and looking gentleman in the South Bay area, 25-35 who enjoys quality time together, no one night stands, for fun, laughs, conversation, hot romance and hot snuggling. Box # 1058

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ALABAMA

GOOD SHAPE
SM I am 5'9, 200 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, pretty good shape, 37 and I am looking for somebody to have a good time with. Any ages between 21-45. I like Blacks and Asians. Call Ext. **23365 (AL)**

ARIZONA

LIKE TO GO OUT
SBM 24, 5'6, medium build, who would like to meet guys who are tall, dark, & handsome. Also loves muscles & likes to go out & have a good time. Doesn't matter if Black or White. Leave a message. Call Ext. **21989 (AR)**

LIKE SPORTS
SBM Like outdoor sports. Looking for someone 180 lbs or over, someone that is fun to be with. Someone that loves quality time. Call me. Call Ext. **22206 (AR)**

ARKANSAS

DISCRETE
SWM 28, 5'10 & brown hair, blue eyes, considered good looking, professional, discrete, not really into the bar scene. Would like to meet men into dining, movies & music. Would like to meet men for quality time or possible relationship. I prefer Black men but any race is welcome. Call Ext. **22789 (AR)**

CALIFORNIA

WELL EDUCATED
SBM 5'9, very well educated. Like sports, like people. Like masculine guys 5'9 or taller, athletic type. Please call. Call Ext. **74183 (CA)**

HAVE FUN
SM Are you between 18-25, straight acting, Black, would like to meet someone you can kick it with, have fun, go places, go to movies, I'd like to hear from you. Please Call Ext. **77285 (CA)**

GET TOGETHER
SM 28, 6'1. Looking to meet a Black guy to go out & have a good time. Basically get together. I'm good looking, have a nice body. Call Ext. Leave message. **74801 (CA)**

ACT STRAIGHT
SM Good looking Puertorican & Black male, 5'9, 160 lbs. I'm straight acting. I'm looking to meet some cool, straight acting brothers who are Latin or Black. Looking to meet some serious minded brothers. Call Ext. Please call. **74728 (CA)**

LIKE CONCERTS
SBM 20. Looking for someone to be my cool & special friend. Someone to go to movies, concerts, hang out together. I'm very straight acting and basically I'm in the closet. Would like for you to be 18-25. Call Ext. **74714 (CA)**

ANY RACE
SBM Desperately seeking any man, any race, who just likes to have fun. Please Call Ext. **74711 (CA)**

HARD BODY
SBM 29. Looking for a very good looking, hard body, masculine, Black, Hispanic male. Someone who enjoys movies, amusement parks, hanging out, kicking it, just having a good time. Someone definitely with a sense of humor. Someone possibly that's looking to settle down. Call Ext. **74911 (CA)**

WORK OUT
SBM 5'10, 160 lbs., good shape, I work out, very attractive, very discrete, masculine. I am just a really down to earth person, not into impressing anyone, with anything materialistic. Interested in guys who are like myself, not into the hype of wanting. Call Ext. **74997 (CA)**

REAL NICE TIME
SBM 20. Looking for a nice looking Black man, masculine, very dominant. I am looking to having a real nice time with someone. Please call me. Call Ext. **74985 (CA)**

LIKE OUTDOORS
SM I am 27 years old and part Black, part Chinese. I am looking for someone who likes to work out and likes the outdoors. I like to work out everyday. Call Ext. **75230 (CA)**

RACE IS OPEN
SM New to this lifestyle, 36. Looking to meet someone, race is open. Call & leave a message if you are interested. Call Ext. **73426 (CA)**

CONNECTICUT

FUN LOVING
SBM I am 33. I am looking to meet other guys. I am a very fun loving person. I work hard. I like to go out every now and then. I am mainly like a home person. I like to stay home cook, watch movies, things like that, but I do enjoy going out. I like to travel, I have a lot of interest. I am looking for someone that really wants someone for who they are, not what they have. I am looking for someone who has a lot of love to give, like I have a lot of love to give. Call Ext. **12216 (CN)**

FIRST TIME
SBM 18. I would like to find a male for my first time. Please Call Ext. **816649 (CN)**

FLORIDA

LIKE BIKING
SBM 27, 5'11. My hobbies include tennis, biking, bowling, racquetball & traveling. I'm in search of a male 21-33 with the same or similar interests. I do require the person has a job. Call Ext. **23402 (FL)**

VERY LOVABLE
SM 29. Searching for a Black male to have a great companionship. I'm very lovable. Call Ext. **22786 (FL)**

EX- MILITARY
SBM 46 Ex-military officer. Who wants a non-smoker over 40. Call Ext. **22840 (FL)**

HANDSOME
SM Handsome, 24, 5'10, not fat, built, college student, ex-military, honest, aggressive & romantic, straight acting. In search of a Black male or Hispanic male, 18-55, professional, secure emotionally, & financially. Call Ext. **22583 (FL)**

JACKSONVILLE AREA PLEASE
SBM I'm a 26 year old black male, 130 lbs., 5'7, good looking from the Jacksonville area. Looking to meet other people for fun & good times. Call Ext. **26380 (FL)**

VERY GOOD LOOKING
SBM 23, very attractive, 6'2, 190 lbs, black hair, brown eyes. Like to work out. Like sports. In search of a male . Please Call Ext. **22204 (FL)**

STUDENT
SBM 24, college student, going to be a doctor. Interested in ages 18-55. Call Ext. **22583 (FL)**

HUMOROUS
SBM 45 but look 35, 6'3, 215 lbs, average build, considered attractive, professional, very discrete. I'm not into the bar scene. I'm humorous & fun to be with. Looking to meet Black men & men of other cultures especially men of Latin descent. I'm healthy & sincere. I'm not into head games. Serious replies only. So leave a message. Call Ext. **22642 (FL)**

GEORGIA

MUST BE HAIRY
SBM I'm a Black male, 39, 160 lbs., seeking body builders of any race. Must be very passive & muscular with big bubble butts & heavy thighs. Must also be hairy. Give me a call. Call Ext. **21536 (GA)**

HAWAII

HONEST
SM 37, Caucasian, brown hair, gray green eyes, 5'7, honest, sincere, have a good sense of humor. Like the outdoors. I'm smoke, drug & disease free. Looking for a Latin, Puertorican, Hispanic, Black, Middle Eastern or Asian male who is younger than myself, who would like to be a friend or a pen pal or if you're coming to visit the Islands, I would be happy to be your tour guide. Call Ext. **91384 (HI)**

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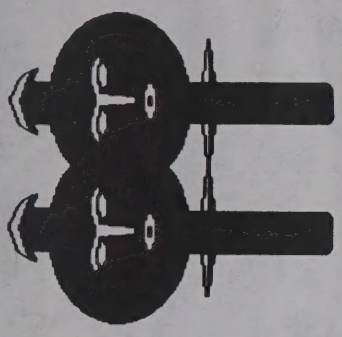

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FRIENDS FIRST

SBM 25, 6', 175 lbs. Looking to meet a Black male about my age to talk & become friends first & then see what happens after that. Please call me. Call Ext. **37728 (IN)**

MICHIGAN
SEE MOVIES

SBM 24. Seeks male for friendship and possible relationship. Must be a down to earth person and not into materialistic things. Things I enjoy doing, going to movies, staying at home, cooking, all that type of good stuff. Race unimportant, age 21-30. Please call me. Call Ext. **38396 (MI)**

N. CAROLINA
GOOD HOT FUN

Black male living in Charlotte area, 24, 5'8, 135 lbs. who loves good hot fun. Leave a message. Call Ext. **21564 (NC)**

NEW YORK
CONVERSATIONS

SBM 33, 5'11, 170 lbs. I am looking to meet other males who are intellectual stimulating, conversational pleasing, pleasant individuals. Who would like to spend time with Call Ext. **12248 (NY)**

OHIO
DANCING

SBM 22, 6'1. I am looking for a guy 18-28, race unimportant. I like movies, dancing, watching movies and am really an outgoing person. Call Ext. **38323 (OH)**

ENJOY MUSIC

SM Tall, dark & handsome. Brown hair, blue eyes, 6'3, 210 lbs. Interested in meeting a Black male. I am straight acting, masculine & enjoy sports & athletics. I also enjoy music. I'm interested in meeting a Black male who is straight acting, good looking. I am responsible. Please call me. Call Ext. **38473 (OH)**

HAVE FUN

SBM Older graduate student. Seeking friendship, companionship, someone who likes to go out to have fun and someone positive. Please Call Ext. **38546 (OH)**

OKLAHOMA
PARK WALKS

SM 21, 6'3, 185 lbs., Afro-American, looking for someone to enjoy wonderful evenings with. Enjoys walking in the park, dinner, movies, Jazz. Call Ext.**4544 (OK)**

BE SINCERE

SWM 27, 5'11, 185 lbs. Looking for good looking Black males, ages 20-30. Must have muscular build. Must be sincere & thoughtful of my needs Call me. Call Ext. **45652 (OK)**

PENN.
WELL BUILT

SBM 26, 5'9, 171 lbs, well built, work out regularly, strong hard body. Looking for Hispanic males. I'm looking for fun. Please call. Call Ext. **11638 (PA)**

S. CAROLINA
ART & THEATER

SBM I am looking for a White male, for a romantic permanent relationship. I am a very romantic person who enjoys romantic candlelight dinners at home and dinning out also. I love jazz, new age, contemporary music, I enjoy the arts, the theater. I am looking for someone who also sees them self as a romantic person. Someone who is ready to settle down for one man and have a serious relationship. I am ready and willing to give 110% to a person that is also willing to give 110%. Leave a message. Call Ext. **23277 (SC)**

LOVE TO DO A LOT OF THINGS

SM Black, 5'7, who loves movies, plays, loves to do a lot of things, looking to meet a nice man to spend time with. Call Ext. **21907 (SC)**

TEXAS
VERY MASCULINE

SBM 21, light complexion, 6'3, 195 lbs., good build, very masculine, very good looking. Looking for a Puerto Rican or Latino man. Please leave a message. Call Ext. **45416 (TX)**

SEEKS FRIEND & RELATIONSHIP

SHM 26, 5'11, 185 lbs. Looking for someone 18-30. Looking for a friend & relationship. Someone to have a good time with. Give me a call. Call Ext. **45698 (TX)**

WASH.
SEEKS A NICE HAIRY MAN

SM 18, 6', 145 lbs., brown hair & eyes, looking to meet nice hairy man 18-35, in the Bellingham area, kinda muscular, not too heavy, interested in young guys like me. Please leave a message very soon. Call Ext. **62748 (WA)**

ENJOY TENNIS AND BIKING

SM Live in Spokane area. Enjoy tennis, biking, traveling. Looking to meet some friends in the area. Leave a message. Call Ext. **62758 (WA)**

WISCONSIN
INTO HAVING FUN & GOOD TIMES

SWM 26. Into having fun, good times. Looking for someone to be a companion or friend. Give me a call. and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. Call Ext. **37034 (WI)**

W. VIRGINIA
WANT TO MEET CUTE, OUTGOING

SM Looking to meet someone fun, very outgoing, cute, 21-30, living in West Virginia area, & willing to drive to meet people. Call Ext. **36615 (WV)**

GOOD LOOKING

SBM Boyish, good looking, 20, 6'1, average build. This is my first experience. Would like to find a guy that maybe just wants to talk first, get to know each other. If you're a White male, 20-31, masculine, muscular, easy going, disease free, straight looking then call me. Call Ext. **37222 (WV)**

HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM

Dear Reader: Enjoy reading all the ads in the category of your choice, circling the ones you'd like to respond to, then call **1-900-562-3377**($1.49/min.) and follow the instructions. If you need help using the system, call BUREAU ONE customer service at 213-957-7380. This is only a small portion of the ads currently on our voice personals system, so you might wish to call and **browse** through the 100's of newest ads in LA or anywhere in the country. To record your own **FREE** voice personal, call **1-800-278-4410**. You'll automatically get a voice box number. Remember: We screen our ads regularly, but we are not responsible for advertisers. You need to "screen" people yourself; talk by phone, and meet in a public place. You must be 18 or older to use this system.

Good luck and have fun!

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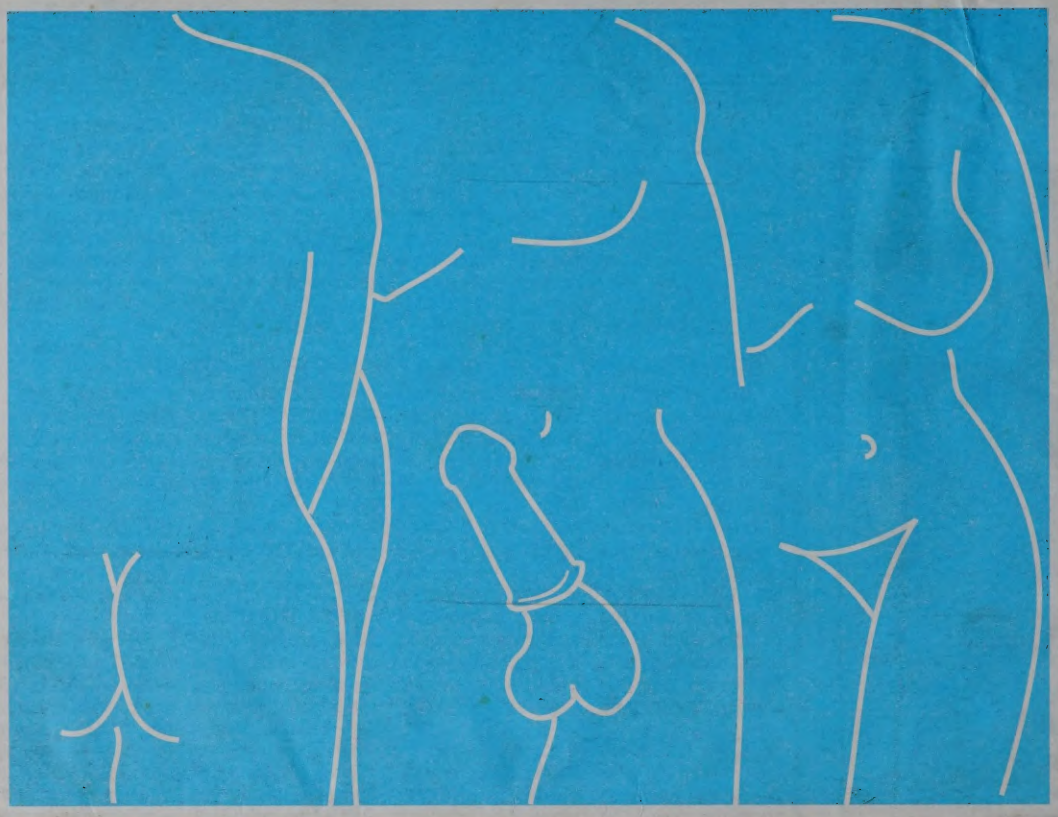

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